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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES

WEDNESDAY, 1st NOVEMBER, 1944

Vol. IV—No. 1

OFFICIAL REPORT



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THE
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES
(OFFICIAL REPORT OF THE TWENTY-FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTH
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY)

VOLUME IV—1944.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Wednesday, 1st November, 1944

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber of the Council House in New Delhi, at Eleven of the Clock, being the First Day of the Twenty-First Session of the Fifth Legislative Assembly, pursuant to Section 63-D(2) of the Government of India Act, as set out in the Ninth Schedule to the Government of India Act, 1935 Mr President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim, K C S I) was in the Chair

MEMBERS SWORN

The Honourable Sir Abraham Jeremy Raisman, K C S I, C I E (Finance Member),

The Honourable Sir Robert Francis Mudie, K C I E, C S I, O B E (Home Member),

The Honourable Sir Ardeshr Rustomji Dalal (Member for Planning and Development),

Mr Darab P Sethna, M L A (Government of India Nominated Official),
Dr Vijayendra Kasturi Ranga Varadaraja Rao, M L A (Government of India Nominated Official),

Mr Wilfred Harold Shoobert, C I E, M L A (Government of India Nominated Official),

Mr Dattatraya Shridhar Joshi, M L A (Government of India Nominated Official), and

Lt-Col Dr J C Chatterjee, M L A (Nominated Non-Official)

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(a) ORAL ANSWERS

MANUFACTURE OF LOCOMOTIVES IN INDIA

1. *Mr. Lalchand Navalkar: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state if the Railway Board is determined to get locomotives built in India? If so, have any contracts been given to any of the mechanical and engineering firms?

(b) Is it a fact that Tatas at Jamshedpur are ready to undertake the manufacture of locomotives? If so, have negotiations been made with Tatas or with any other firm?

(c) Is it a fact that tenders for building locomotives in India have been called for for the Railways? If so, from which firms and on what terms? If not, do Government propose to call for the same?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Yes, it has been decided to develop the Kanchrapara Shops of the Bengal and Assam Railway for the manufacture of locomotives as soon as possible after the war and the preliminary work is in hand. In addition arrangements are being made to provide at the East Indian Railway Shops at Singhbhum additional machinery for the manufacture of 100 boilers per year as a war measure and of 50 locomotives and 50 boilers as soon as possible after the cessation of hostilities.

[1st Nov. 1944]

(b) No Messrs Tatas are not yet ready to undertake the manufacture of locomotives but have expressed a desire to take it up as a post-war development. With regard to the second part of the question, negotiations with Messrs Tatas have not yet been finalised.

(c) No. With regard to the second part the question does not arise. Government do not propose to call for tenders.

Mr. Lalchand Navarai: May I know from the Honourable Member if the parts which were required for the building of locomotives in India are now available?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Certain repair parts are manufactured in India and certain other parts have to be imported.

Mr. Lalchand Navarai: May I know from the Honourable Member why a beginning has not been made now and contracts given? Why must we wait till after the war?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I have already said that certain parts are being made in India.

Mr. Lalchand Navarai: It is not a question of parts. I am asking if certain parts are available here and whether the other raw materials are also here. Why not give the contracts now?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I think the Honourable Member does not understand the situation. The manufacture of locomotives is a very highly specialised work. All the raw materials are not available nor is the technical experience nor the machinery. It is a very big undertaking to set up a locomotive workshop.

Mr. Lalchand Navarai: Have not some locomotives been built in Ajmere? Why have not very many more been built?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The locomotive workshops at Ajmere are principally engaged in erecting imported locomotives at the moment, although a certain amount of work is taking place on the construction of other locomotives.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) Next question.

PROMOTIONS TO LOWER GAZETTED SERVICE ON NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

2. ***Mr. Lalchand Navarai:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state the number of subordinate service employees promoted to the Lower Gazetted Service permanently, temporarily or in an officiating capacity on the North Western Railway from the 1st January, 1944, to the 30th September, 1944?

(b) What are their names, substantive pay and posts held in subordinate service before promotion to the Lower Gazetted Service?

(c) What is the criterion for promotion from the subordinate to the Lower Gazetted Service posts on Railways? If no such criterion has been laid down, do Government propose to fix some such criterion of a minimum of 10 to 15 years' service, and substantive pay of Rs. 350 to Rs. 400? If not, why not?

(d) Is it a fact that members of certain so-called minority communities drawing comparatively low rates of pay and with short service are being promoted out of turn? If so, why?

(e) What are the reasons for promotion of each of the persons referred to in (b) above in preference to their seniors?

(f) Is it a fact that two posts of Junior Assistant Commercial were created in the North Western Railway Headquarters Office in January last? If so, what are the reasons for appointment to one of these posts of a member of the minority community out of turn?

(g) Is it a fact that there is no well-defined policy in regard to maintenance of approved lists of subordinates fit for Lower Gazetted Services? If the reply be in the negative, will the Honourable Member be pleased to lay a copy of the approved list for North Western Railway on the table of the House? If not, has the same been communicated to the Railway Board by the North Western Railway Administration?

(h) Is it a fact that no formal selection is made nor any interview given to the candidates for promotion to the Lower Gazetted Service? If so, why are

the rules for selection contained in the State Railway Establishment Code, Volume I violated in this respect?

(i) is it proposed to have proper selection boards for making promotion to Lower Gazetted Service, and to circulate results? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) The number of subordinate employees promoted to the Lower Gazetted Service during the period from 1st January, 1944, to 30th September, 1944, is as follows —

Permanent	1
Provisionally Permanent	2
Officiating	60

(b) I lay a statement on the table giving the required information in respect of those promoted in a permanent or provisionally permanent capacity. As regards the others, they were in many cases appointed to officiate against short term vacancies, on the termination of which they reverted to their substantive posts.

(c) and (e) I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply to part (e) of Mr. H. M. Abdullah's Starred Question No. 1650 asked on the 12th April, 1939. As regards the second portion of part (c), the matter is already under consideration by the Railway Board. The last portion does not arise.

(d) The reply to the first part is in the negative, the latter part does not arise.

(f) One temporary post of Junior Assistant, Commercial, was created and the term of another temporary post was extended in January last. These posts were filled by promoting the men considered most suitable with due regard to the exigencies of the service.

(g) I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply to part (b) of his Starred Question No. 176 asked on the 4th August, 1943. On the N. W. Railway, approved lists are maintained except in the case of the smaller cadres. No such lists are received in the Railway Board's office.

(h) There is no uniformity on Railways in the matter of interview, but definite selection is carried out by all Administrations. It is presumed that the rules referred to in the latter part are those contained in Appendix II-A of State Railway Establishment Code, Volume I, which are applicable to promotion to non-gazetted posts only.

(i) Does not arise in view of the reply to parts (c) and (e) above.

Statement showing names and service particulars of subordinates promoted to lower gazetted service in permanent or provisionally permanent capacity on the North Western Railway during the period from 1st January, 1944 to 30th September, 1944

Name	Designation as subordinate	Rate of pay as subordinate	Capacity in which promoted to Lower Gazetted Service
1 Mr. C. E. Mathieson	Foreman, Signal Shops	675	Permanent
2 Mr. G. W. Blagdon	Permanent Way Inspector	650	Provisionally permanent
3 Mr. L. D. Keshani	Inspector of Works	300	Provisionally permanent

1 Navalrai: May I know from the Honourable Member whether the communal question was considered while giving these promotions? I have asked a question whether the promotions are being given according to the communal basis or whether they are given according to selection.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Promotions are not made on a communal basis.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: May I also know if the lower subordinates that have been promoted are all Hindus or all Muhammedans?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I have not a copy of the list.

[1st Nov. 1944]

Mr. Lalchand Navalm: Will the Honourable Member kindly see that the selections are made through the Public Service Commissions—I mean the Regional Public Service Commissions at the headquarters?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I do not propose to change the present arrangement

UNSATISFACTORY OPERATION OF DEARNESS RELIEF IN KIND ON RAILWAYS

3. *Mr. Lalchand Navalm: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state whether it is a fact that dearness relief in kind is not properly given to all the employees, as some of them in some localities are deprived of some commodities at cheap rates owing to lack of them at the shops serving those localities? If so, is it proposed to give cash relief to that much extent as would be due to the employees owing to cheap rates? If not, why not?

(b) Is it a fact that the General Manager, North Western Railway circularized the revised rate of sugar at six annas a seer and two chataks, with effect from 1st April, 1944? Is it also a fact that on the Delhi Division of the North Western Railway sugar continued to be sold to Railway staff at six annas a seer only till the 5th May, 1944, or thereabouts? If so, what relief has been given or is proposed to be given to employees adversely affected for non-observance of the General Manager's orders?

(c) Who was responsible for this, and what action has been taken or proposed to be taken against him or them? If none, why?

(d) Is it a fact that employees on the Delhi Division of the North Western Railway have been asked to purchase even rotten stuff offered by the Railway or which has deteriorated owing to the inefficiency of handling such commodities? If so, why?

(e) Is it a fact that the value of coupons purchased from Railway to get various commodities and for which the relative commodities could not be supplied is not being refunded for about six months and in some cases has not at all been refunded owing to intricate process for sanctioning refunds or excessive work in Accounts Offices and papers being mislaid? If so, what action is proposed to be taken to grant refund on the spot if the required commodity is not available or is not purchased? If none, why?

(f) Is it a fact that rice is supplied at cheap rates on some stations of the North Western Railway, while controlled prices are charged at others, and on some stations no rice is supplied to the Railwaymen at all? If so, what is the reason for this discrimination?

(g) Is there a general demand from Railway employees for dearness relief in cash instead of part of it being given by sale of commodities by Railways at cheap rates? If so, do Government propose to accede to the demand? If not, why not?

(h) Is it a fact that a Sub-Committee of the Standing Finance Committee for Railways was charged with the task of deciding the point whether dearness relief be given entirely in cash or also in kind? If so, what are the main features of its findings? Were any employees or their unions called to give evidence before the Committee? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) No Relief in kind is properly and equitably given in so far as the procurement position permits. It is not proposed to give cash relief when stocks fail.

(b) No The General Manager's orders were that the revised price and scale of sugar would take effect from 1st April 1944, provided sufficient supplies were placed at the disposal of the Divisional Superintendents by the Civil authorities. On the Delhi Division sufficient supplies were not made available to introduce the revised price and scale until the month of May. The latter part of the question does not arise.

(c) In view of the reply to (b), this question does not arise.

(d) This is not correct.

(e) No In some instances, however, there has been a certain amount of delay in refunding the value of unexchanged coupons for the following reasons.

(i) the late submission by the employees of claims for refund,

(u) the coupons presented being defaced and damaged and their numbers being indecipherable, and

(uu) because sometimes difficulties arise in verifying that the coupons presented for refund are not forged documents

(f) As rice is not the staple food of employees on the N W Railway this commodity has not been a stock item in the N W Railway grainshops in the past. It has, however, recently been introduced as a stock item at concessional rates and arrangements are in hand for stocking this commodity at all shops

(g) There is no general demand for relief in cash only, though some workers have expressed a preference for this method. Government consider that relief partly in cash and partly in kind is in the best interests not only of the workers themselves but of the country as a whole, having regard to present prices and procurement difficulties

(h) The Standing Finance Committee for Railways in the exercise of its functions relating to Railway budget estimates appointed a Sub-Committee to examine the various issues arising out of the expenditure on measures of relief in kind. One of the conclusions ultimately formed by the Committee after considering the views of the Sub-Committee was that relief in kind is preferable to relief in cash. This examination was conducted by the Committee in the normal course of its business and there was no need or occasion for calling any evidence

Mr. Lalchand Navarai: May I know from the Honourable Member whether there have been any representations from the employees to the effect that they were not getting commodities of good quality and whether they have been asking for cash relief? May I also know whether this question has been recently considered by any body, any committee or any officers, and, if so, when was it last considered?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The question is considered from week to week and almost from day to day

Mr. Lalchand Navarai: Is the Honourable Member not yet satisfied that their complaints are true?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I am perfectly satisfied that on the whole the supplies are reasonably satisfactory having regard to the difficulties of the supply position today

Mr. Lalchand Navarai: In view of the fact that there have been complaints that the goods supplied to them are mixed with dirt etc., is it the Honourable Member's view that nothing should be done in the matter?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I have already replied to the Honourable Member that our enquiries show that the supplies made to the railway employees are of a satisfactory nature

EXTENSIONS TO SUPERANNUATED POST MASTERS AND CLERKS IN THE SIND POSTAL CIRCLE

4. *Mr. Lalchand Navarai: (a) Will the Secretary for Posts and Air be pleased to state how many Post Masters and clerks in the Sind Circle, Posts and Telegraphs Department have been given extensions of service after their superannuation period and for how many years?

(b) What were the reasons for such extensions?

(c) Were protests raised by subordinates next to the persons whom the extensions were given? If so, how were they met with?

(d) Do Government propose to revise the cases of such extensions to do justice to those who would ordinarily be promoted to such places? If not, why not?

Mr. W. F. Shoober: (a) Eight Postmasters and six clerks have been retained in service beyond the age of 55 years for periods ranging from 1 to 4 years.

(b) Under the rules, ministerial servants should ordinarily be retained in service up to the age of 60 years provided they continue to be efficient

(e) Yes Several officials have recently protested and the matter is under examination by the Head of the Circle.

(d) Does not arise in view of the reply given to (c)

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: May I know how many subordinates and how many officers in the Posts and Telegraphs Department have been given extension beyond the age of sixty?

Mr. W. H. Shoober: I must have notice of that question

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Is it so difficult for the Honourable Member to say that there are sixty or fifty-five persons?

Mr. W. H. Shoober: Not a single official so far as I am aware, has been given such an extension

Mr Lalchand Navalrai. Is it the case in the subordinate ranks as well?

PROSECUTION OF CERTAIN EMPLOYEES OF KARACHI PORT TRUST FOR CRIMINAL CONSPIRACY AND CHEATING

5. *Seth Yusuf Abdooli Haroon: (a) Is the Honourable Member for War Transport aware that certain employees of the Karachi Port Trust were prosecuted by the Karachi C I D Police on charges of criminal conspiracy and cheating the Karachi Port Trust in January, 1939?

(b) Is it a fact that after a long and protracted trial the employees of the Karachi Port Trust and also some of the partners of a firm of contractors, who were jointly prosecuted with them, were acquitted of all the charges by the Chief Court in 1941?

(c) Is it a fact that the employees of the Karachi Port Trust had been acquitted by the Chief Court of Sind, that the Karachi Port Trust decided to hold a departmental enquiry against them on the same charges and on the same evidence recorded in the criminal case, and that the proceedings of such a departmental enquiry were instituted thereafter some time in January 1942?

(d) Is it a fact that these employees of the Karachi Port Trust, who were originally suspended in 1939 continue to remain suspended till the present day, and that no decision has yet been taken?

(e) Has any application or reference been received by this Government either from the Karachi Port Trust or from any of the employees concerned in this connection? If so, what has been the result thereof?

(f) Are Government prepared to enquire into the matter as to why these employees are still under suspension, and why no decision has yet been taken?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Yes

(b) Yes, one was acquitted by the special magistrate Karachi and the other accused were acquitted on appeal by the Chief Court of Sind

(c) Yes, the Port Trust decided to hold a departmental enquiry in November 1941

(d) Yes, except that the suspension order against one of the employees who was acquitted in the lower court was cancelled. He has since died

(e) Two applications were received and these were passed on to the Chairman, Karachi Port Trust, for disposal

(f) Yes, Government are enquiring into the matter

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: How long have they remained under suspension and will they be paid their salaries for the period of suspension?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The facts are correctly stated in the question

Sardar Sant Singh: May I ask the Honourable Member whether any Department is entitled to hold an enquiry after a case had been referred for judicial prosecution and the party concerned had been acquitted by the courts?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The Port Trust are an independent body and they decided to hold a departmental enquiry, which arose out of certain remarks in the judgment of the special magistrate

Sardar Sant Singh: May I ask if the Karachi Port Trust was justified in pursuing this further inquiry after the judicial pronouncement had been obtained from competent judges?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I think so, Sir
Mr. Lalchand Navarai: May I know if that rule or order of the Port Trust has got any consent of the Government of India?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: What rule?

Mr. Lalchand Navarai: The Honourable Member said that, according to the rules and orders the Port Trust can make an inquiry even though a man has passed through the court and has got a judgment. I am asking whether the Government has sanctioned or countenanced this authority of the Port Trust.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: It is a regular practice.

Mr. Lalchand Navarai: May I know

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) Order, order. Next question.

Mr. Lalchand Navarai: Then I rise to a point of order, Sir.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) What is the point of order?

Mr. Lalchand Navarai: The answer was not understood by me.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) The point has been perfectly cleared up and we must go on to the next question. Next question.

TRANSFER OF ADMINISTRATION OF BENGAL ASSAM RAILWAY TO AMERICAN GOVERNMENT

6. ***Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad:** (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to make a statement about the conditions under which the administration of the Bengal Assam Railway has been transferred to the American Government?

(b) What are the arrangements about the distribution of profit?

(c) Who will pay the interest charges?

(d) Has this arrangement been made under lend and lease system?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) The administration of the Bengal and Assam Railway has not been transferred to the American Government. On certain sections of that Railway, train running is in charge of, and being performed by American Transportation Units with the assistance of the B & A Railway Transportation staff. All other functions of the Railway are under the direct control of the General Manager.

(b), (c) and (d) No question of distribution of profits or interest charges arises. The financial and commercial arrangements of the B & A Railway remain unaltered. The services of the American Transportation Units are being given free of charge.

DETERMINATION OF CONTRACT OF BENGAL NAGPUR RAILWAY

7. ***Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad:** (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state when the Government is likely to determine the contract of the Bengal Nagpur Railway?

(b) What amount has been fixed for the purchase of this Railway?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) The contract with the Bengal Nagpur Railway Company was determined on 30th September 1944 by negotiation.

(b) £3,600,000.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Will the Honourable Member tell the amount which the Government of India paid and the amount which they would have paid had it been acquired in 1950?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I cannot give the latter figure without notice, but the amount actually paid was £3,600,000.

PURCHASE OF LOCOMOTIVES

8. ***Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad:** (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state how many locomotives has the Government of India bought in the year 1944, and how many of these have already arrived in India?

(b) In what manner have these locomotives been distributed among the first class Railways?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) (i) Orders have been placed for 255 B G and 377 M G locomotives against the programme for 1944-45

(u) Deliveries against these contracts up to 30th September, 1944, total 48 B G and 174 M G

(b) The distribution of these locomotives amongst Railways is arranged to suit the traffic conditions existing at the time of delivery

Mr. Mann Subedar: May I know at what price and from which countries these orders have been placed?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I cannot quote the price, because these locomotives are on lease-land or mutual aid. They come from the United States or Canada

Mr. Mann Subedar: Is it a fact that they come on lease-land from the United States, yet the Indian Government have to pay the full price?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: No, that is not a fact, but the Railways pay for the locomotives and charge them to their capital or depreciation accounts

Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: Are these engines working like the famous XB engines?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: They are excellent engines and are giving excellent results

Mr. Mann Subedar: My question was whether the locomotives come from the United States to the United Kingdom under lease-land, but that the Indian railways system is made to pay the full price of it

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: That is an inter-departmental arrangement. The Government of India receives them on lease-land and mutual aid

Mr. Mann Subedar: Do you pay in full and the United Kingdom gets the materials free from the United States on lease-land?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: That is not correct

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: May I know whether the Railway Board has actually paid the amount?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The Railway Department will be debited as a matter of accounting

Sardar Sant Singh: Does the Railway Board know what amount is debited to the Government of India on this account?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Yes

Sardar Sant Singh: May I know what is the amount?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: No, I have not got the information with me now

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Has the Railway Board actually paid the amount or will it be settled when lease-land arrangement is adjusted?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I have already answered that

Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: When these engines are received, may I know if there is any possibility in the increase of the number of railway trains run?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: These are goods locomotives, and they will certainly help in enabling the railways to carry more goods

ARTICLES RECEIVED FROM MIDDLE EAST FOR DISPOSAL IN INDIA

9. **Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad:** (a) Will the Honourable the Supply Member please mention the approximate value of the articles received from Middle East for disposal in this country?

(b) What arrangements have the Government made for the sale of these articles?

(c) Will the Government advertise the details of these articles for the benefit of the consumers?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: (a) The Honourable Member is presumably referring to items of salvage from the Middle East theatre of war imported into India. Both quantities and classes of such goods vary considerably from time to time according to actual conditions in the war theatre, this country's own requirements, and the shipping position. Complete figures of quantities and values of such imports are not available.

Such items as packing cases, containers, cartridge cases are in large quantities directly re-usable, after reconditioning where necessary, by the Defence Services and Ordnance Factories. In addition substantial quantities of ferrous and non-ferrous scrap, used rubber tyres and tubes, cloth rags are imported from time to time as available and required.

(b) All material received from the Middle East, other than that consigned direct to users is received in Port Salvage Depôts where it is inspected and sorted. Whatever can be reutilised by the Defence Services is so utilised by them, the balance being reported to the Director-General of Disposals, who in his turn endeavours to reutilise as much as possible by issues to departments or persons engaged on essential production. The material that cannot be used by either of these methods is sold by public auction, advertised tender or private treaty.

(c) Adequate publicity and notice of these sales has been and is given through the usual channels of advertisements in newspapers and distribution of handbills.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: May I know if there is any list of these articles and if so from which offices can it be seen?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: It may be seen from the various Deputy Directors of Disposals who are at the various ports—Madras, Bombay, Calcutta and Karachi etc.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Will the Honourable Member send me a copy of the handbills or notifications that have been issued?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: I will try to collect a few samples and send them to my Honourable Colleague.

CITIZENSHIP IN UNITED STATES OF AMERICA OF SINDWORK MERCHANTS

10. *Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Has the attention of the Foreign Secretary been drawn to a contribution in the *Sind Observer*, Karachi, dated the 12th September 1944 regarding citizenship under a quota system in the United States of America as regards Sindwork merchants? If so, what steps does the Honourable Member propose to take to see that their citizenship is recognized?

Sir Olaf Caroe: The answer to the first part of the question is 'Yes' and to the second 'that the Agent General for India has continued to represent to the State Department the question of the grant of citizenship rights to Indians in the United States of America. The Sindwork Merchants will presumably be eligible on the same terms as other Indians if and when the present restrictions are removed.'

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: May I know whether any representations made have been specifically made with regard to these Indian silk merchants from Sind?

Sir Olaf Caroe: No, no single class or group of Indians has been singled out.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Has any reply come from there as to who have been given that citizenship and who are proposed to be given?

Sir Olaf Caroe: The matter is being discussed in general terms, there are three bills before the American Congress. As it stood towards the close of the last session, the matter was described by me in a speech in the other House which was given some notice in the press. I do not think, I can go into very much detail in reply to this question.

TRAVEL IN FIRST CLASS LADIES' COMPARTMENT ON GRAND TRUNK EXPRESS BY TWO EUROPEAN ARMY OFFICERS,

11. *Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways please make inquiries to ascertain—

(i) whether on the 28th July 1944 in the 'Ladies' first class compartment (2628c) of the Grand Trunk Express proceeding from Nagpur to Delhi two European Army Officers were found travelling and that there were two European lady passengers, in the same compartment along with them,

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(ii) if at Itarsi, the guard who took charge of the train, asked these officers to come out of that compartment and told them that they could not travel in the Ladies compartment,

(iii) if the Army Officers insisted on travelling in this compartment and the European ladies backed up their insistence, and that even after their senior Army Officer was called a good deal of discussion took place with the guard,

(iv) if the guard insisted on their getting out of the compartment with a warning that the train would not start unless they got out of the compartment, and

(v) if the train which was already late by about two hours, was detained at Itarsi for about half an hour before they got out?

(b) Does the Honourable Member propose to reward the guard of the train for discharging his duty properly, in spite of the obstinate attitude of all the Army Officers, if the facts mentioned in (i) to (v) are true?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) (i) Yes This was noticed at Itarsi

(ii) Yes

(iii) The reply to the first part is in the affirmative As regards the second part, I am informed that there was some discussion even after the R T O had arrived on the scene

(iv) Yes The Guard of the train explained to the Army Officers concerned that the rules did not permit him to allow male passengers to travel in ladies' compartments

(v) No The train arrived at Itarsi 35 minutes late and left 40 minutes late, the detention of 5 minutes at Itarsi being due to this incident

(b) The Guard of the train only discharged his duty and the question of a reward does not arise

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: Is it not the regular procedure when a person does his duty very satisfactorily under adverse circumstances to give him a reward?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Railway officers are doing their duty all the time, we cannot reward them all

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: Officers or soldiers who discharge their duty under adverse circumstances, do they not get any reward or title or extension or increment in salary?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: No, not that I am aware of

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: May I know, in view of the fact that these disturbances are taking place on practically all the Railways, whether the Honourable Member will let us know what arrangements have been made to dispose of these matters on the spot? Is the R T O working on all the railways?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Yes, at a great many places on the Railways where that is the case, the matter is disposed of on the spot, as on this occasion

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: Is the Honourable Member aware that the R T O's and M P's are not to be found at many places—even in big stations—so that if there are any European passengers who are as persistent and importunate as they were here to get into ladies compartments, nothing can be done in the matter

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Certainly not action is taken by railway servants as in this case

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: As this thing happens frequently, will the Honourable Member consider a procedure to publish these rules which prohibit military officers from travelling in ladies compartments as well as not to encroach on berths reserved by passengers, through the military department?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: So far as I am aware, the military authorities have informed their officers of the rules

Sardar Sant Singh: May I know if the officers left the compartment after this incident?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Certainly

Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall May I know if the guard was not guilty of obstructing the war effort?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Ruhim) Next question

Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall: In view of the fact that some *tongawala* was prosecuted for carrying some soldiers to prostitutes houses, is it not possible that the guard was guilty in the same way of having these soldiers in the same compartment as the ladies?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Certainly not Accommodation was found for the officers elsewhere

Maulana Zafar Ali Khan May I know whether the Honourable Member proposes to punish this guard for his obstinacy?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Certainly not

EFFORTS FOR REMOVAL OF DISABILITIES AFFECTING INDIANS IN UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

12. *Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: Will the Foreign Secretary please state if the Government of India made any efforts after February, 1944, to get the disabilities and restrictions affecting Indians in the United States of America removed? What is the view of the Government of the United States of America about this matter?

Sir Olaf Caroe: The answer to the first part of the question is 'Yes' and to the second part 'that the Government of the United States of America are giving the matter their sympathetic and active attention'

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: I am asking what progress has been made—not merely that progress has been made For over two years the same answer has been given to me I want to know if any definite progress has been made in our efforts after the month of February 1944

Sir Olaf Caroe: The answer was yes, that efforts are being made

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: I should like to know the nature of the definite efforts that have been made after February 1944

Sir Olaf Caroe: The nature of the efforts has been that the Agent General has kept the matter prominently before the United States authorities concerned One result has been that one of the Bills has come before the committee of the American Congress concerned

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: Is it because of the efforts of the Agent General or of the American authorities themselves that this matter has come to the forefront?

Sir Olaf Caroe: I think that is quite an unjustifiable inference The Agent General continues to represent the matter It is also well known that opinion in India generally is very strongly in favour and the Honourable Member's questions and other questions giving publicity to the matter all have their effect no doubt

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: May I know why the representations of this Government have not received the same consideration as the representations of the Chinese Government have received?

Sir Olaf Caroe: I do not think that is so I would deny that

Mr. Manu Subedar: Was the subject discussed between Mr Churchill and Mr Roosevelt at Quebec?

Sir Olaf Caroe: I have no information

TECHNICAL QUALIFICATIONS FOR SENIOR POSTS OF DRAFTSMEN IN THE CHIEF MECHANICAL ENGINEER'S OFFICE

13. *Sardar Sant Singh: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state the technical qualifications required for the posts of Chief and Assistant Chief Draftsmen in the Chief Mechanical Engineer's Office, and whether these posts are held by duly qualified persons? If not, why not?

(b) Is it a fact that the Chief Mechanical Engineer has protested on the employment of non-technical persons as draftsmen specially on senior posts? If so, how was the same disposed of?

(c) Who is in charge of personnel matters in the headquarters' Office, and do the Principal Officers and their Deputies exercise effective control on the

staff in their respective executive office sections in the matter of promotion and selection? If so, how? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall. The Honourable Member has not mentioned the particular Railway to which the question refers

ADOPTION OF AMERICAN SYSTEM OF RUNNING ENGINES FOR LONG DISTANCES

14 *Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad. (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state if it is a fact that the Railway Board has recently adopted the American system of running an engine for a long distance and changing the drivers at intervals?

(b) Does the Honourable Member realise that Railway engines just like motor cars and horses have got their own temperament and persons using them continuously understand the defects and remedies?

(c) Is the Honourable Member aware of the fact that the engines can be run indiscriminately by any driver if these are new and of standard type?

(d) Will the Honourable Member examine the question that old engines, which have already completed their normal age and have developed certain defects, cannot be driven indiscriminately by any driver?

(e) Is the Honourable Member aware of the fact that engines frequently stop for a long time at different places on account of the drivers not understanding the machinery, thus causing great inconvenience to passengers?

(f) Will the Honourable Member pay the damages to all the passengers for missing their engagements on account of this defective way of running engines?

(g) Has the Railway Board adopted this principle on the opinion of a single individual or the Board has this principle examined by any Committee of experts? Who were the members of the Expert Committee?

(h) Is it not a fact that the life of an engine is shortened by long runs without rest? If not, has the Honourable Member had an opportunity to get the matter attested by an Expert Committee?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall (a) This system of running has been in force in varying degrees on Indian Railways for many years past

(b) Government is unable to accept the suggestion that locomotives are as temperamental as horses but agrees that persons continually employed on locomotives gain an appreciation of their individual peculiarities

(c) Experience of even new and standardised locomotives is required by any driver for efficient operation

(d) The age and design of a locomotive does not preclude its use under 'POOLED' system or for extended runs

(e) No

(f) Does not arise

(g) The 'POOLED' system is of general application throughout the world and is accepted as efficient by Locomotive Engineers and Operating Superintendents if proper attention is paid to maintenance

(h) No, not necessarily

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Has the Honourable Member ever run his motor car and does he know that cars have got their temperament and that machines have got peculiarities of their own known only to their drivers and not to others?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Yes, I have already given an answer to that

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Is it not a fact that every machinery, including a motor car, has its own peculiarities known only to the driver when it becomes old?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Yes, I have said so

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: If he agrees, is it not a fact that locomotives have their own peculiarities, especially old locomotives, and only those who are constantly running them can understand them and not everybody and that is the reason for delay on the East Indian Railway

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The Honourable Member appeared to be arguing

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: I am putting a question. Is it not a fact that this peculiarity applies to locomotive engines in the same manner as other machinery?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I have already said that there is a variation in engines. I do not admit that it is an ordinary cause of delays.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Is it not advantageous that persons who know the peculiarities should run them and not change them?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: No, one thing has to be balanced against another, and on balance this pooled system is found to be efficient.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: This system was devised at a time when the engines were new.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member is really arguing. The question has been answered.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: I asked him whether this method is applicable to new engines only and not in the case of old engines.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I have answered that in reply to part (d) of the question.

TERMS OF APPOINTMENT OF THE COAL COMMISSIONER

15. ***Mr. K. C. Neogy.** (a) Will the Honourable the Supply Member be pleased to state the terms of appointment of the present Coal Commissioner, and place on the table a copy of any agreement or contract that may have been made in this connection?

(b) Was the selection of the present Coal Commissioner made with the direct or indirect assistance of His Majesty's Government, and was he at any time subsequent to his appointment expected or allowed to maintain any contact with any authority or organisation in the United Kingdom interested in questions affecting fuel?

(c) Has the present Coal Commissioner enjoyed the privilege of direct access to His Excellency the Governor-General in an official capacity at any time?

(d) To which different Departments of the Government of India has the Coal Commissioner been attached successively so far for purposes of administrative control, and for what periods was he so attached to each department, and what circumstances led to a change in the controlling department in each case?

(e) Was the Coal Commissioner granted any leave since his appointment? If so, for what period and on what terms, and what arrangements were made for carrying on his duties during his absence on leave?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: (a) Mr. Young has been appointed Coal Commissioner with the Government of India for a period of one year with effect from the afternoon of 27th December, 1948, on a salary of £5,000 per annum. He was given a free air passage from the United Kingdom to India and will be given a free air passage back to the United Kingdom on the termination of his appointment. His leave and travelling allowance are governed by the Fundamental and Supplementary Rules. He was also granted an initial outfit allowance of £75. No agreement or contract has been executed by Mr. Young.

(b) The selection of Mr. Young was made by the Secretary of State for India on behalf of the Government of India.

The answer to the second part of the question is in the negative.

(c) The Coal Commissioner has not been, and is not, entitled to see His Excellency the Governor General when he wishes. But His Excellency the Governor General, who is naturally concerned with the coal situation, required the Coal Commissioner to see him at frequent intervals immediately after his appointment.

(d) The Coal Commissioner has been attached to the following Departments of the Government from time to time :

Name of Department	Period
(1) War Transport Department	27.12.43—5.4.44
(2) Labour Department	6.4.44—31.5.44
(3) Supply Department	1.6.44 onwards.

It is not very easy to define the circumstances which led to a change in the controlling Department in each case, because so many factors had to be taken into account.

From the very beginning several departments of the Government of India were vitally concerned with the production, distribution and consumption of coal. The production of coal, the conditions of employment of colliery labour, the safety of mines and of the labour employed therein and their welfare were primarily the responsibility of Honourable Colleague in the Labour Department. The distribution of coal and its transport was the responsibility of the War Transport Department, while the Railway Board were interested both as being large producers of coal and the largest consumer. When the Coal Commissioner was appointed, it was recognised that it was desirable that he should be responsible for all his functions to one Department only. As coal distribution had up to then been the most important problem, he was, to begin with, placed under the administrative control of the War Transport Department, being responsible to the Labour Department for the production side. But at the time he was appointed and thereafter, production fell heavily and the question of stepping up production by import of labour, machinery and stores became the most acute problem. Towards the middle of April, therefore, he was placed under the administrative control of the Labour Department. The question of placing him under one department for all his functions was meanwhile under consideration in the light of the reports which the Coal Commissioner had been asked to furnish. On a full consideration of these reports, it was decided that the most appropriate department to control his main activities would be the Supply Department. This was accordingly done, leaving the Labour Department with the responsibility for recruitment of labour, the terms and conditions of its employment in coal mines and also their welfare and safety.

(e) The Coal Commissioner was granted leave on medical certificate for 28 days with effect from 15th September 1944. During his absence on leave the two Deputy Coal Commissioners were asked to deal direct with the Secretariat of the Supply Department.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: With regard to part (a) of the question, may I know whether it is intended to extend the term of office of this officer, when it comes to an end?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: I am unable to answer that question at present.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: The Honourable Member has given us an idea about the terms on which this officer has been appointed. Is it a fact that this officer had also to be compensated for loss of business in the United Kingdom, apart from the other terms to which the Honourable Member has referred?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: The terms are as I have detailed them in my answer and I am not aware of any other terms for which the Government of India are responsible.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: With regard to part (c) of the question, the Honourable Member has said that shortly after his appointment, the Coal Commissioner had to see the Governor General frequently, due to the importance of the matters. Will the Honourable Member be pleased to state whether the practice was initiated with the approval of the department concerned or was it done over the head of the Honourable Member dealing with this officer?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: I understand that it was done with the fullest knowledge and approval of the Member concerned. It was His Excellency's desire that he should meet the Coal Commissioner and it was not a privilege granted to the Coal Commissioner to meet His Excellency.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Did the Coal Commissioner obtain the formal leave of the Honourable Member on every occasion that he went to see the Governor General?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: He went as the Governor General required him to go and see him. It is understood that this arrangement was arrived at with the full approval of the Member concerned.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Did the Coal Commissioner keep the Honourable Member informed regularly about his interviews and also about the subject matter of the discussions that took place between him and the Governor General?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: I presume so. I was not the Member in charge at the time.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Will the Honourable Member find out from the records as to whether this procedure was followed?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: They are not matters of records.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: With regard to part (d), the Honourable Member has given us a few factors that were responsible for the changing over of the control from one department to another at short intervals. Is it a fact that the Coal Commissioner's own personal likes and dislikes were one of the factors determining this change over from one department to another?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: No.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I know whether the power to say that a factory or any class of industry in this country must close down, because no coal will be available, is given to the Coal Controller or is retained by the Honourable Member himself?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: It is not given to the Coal Controller.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Every time a factory is asked to close down, such as the steel rolling mills, may I know whether the sanction and permission of the Member is taken when this direction is given?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: It depends upon the nature of the factory. In the case of the steel rolling mills, the Supply Member was responsible. In the case of others, if they have to close down the department which is responsible for running them gives the direction.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Will the Honourable Member promise to look into the question as to how many industries are penalised, when it is in the power of the Government to permit them to have some coal to carry on? I want an assurance from the Honourable Member on this point. It is a very serious matter both for businessmen and the labour concerned. Will the Honourable Member personally look into this and see how many factories have closed down and whether something cannot be done to restart them?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: That is the constant care of myself and some of my colleagues who form a committee of the Council for this purpose.

Sardar Sant Singh: With regard to part (d) of the question, is it a fact that a report was called for by the Governor General and this Commissioner was unable to furnish that report and one of the Indian Members of his own department had to write the report and take over the charge of the coal department?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: If the report had been called from the Coal Controller, he must have sent the

... have had the help of some member who had known something about it in the earlier stages. 14 NOV. 1944

4 Mr. N. M. Joshi: In view of the fact that the coal policy of the Government of India affects the interests of the workers both working in mines and in factories, which suffer on account of the shortage of coal, will the Government of India appoint labour representatives on the advisory committee which they have formed for the production and distribution of coal?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: I submit that does not arise on this question.

HIGHER GRADE OFFICERS EMPLOYED IN THE COAL COMMISSIONER'S ORGANISATION

16. *Mr. K. C. Neogy: (a) Will the Honourable the Supply Member be pleased to state the number of officers drawing a monthly salary (i) between Rs 500 and Rs 1,000, and (ii) above Rs 1,000, employed in the Coal Commissioner's organisation, and how many of them in each category are Indians?

(b) What was the process of selection of these officers? When were they selected and by whom in the first instance?

(c) Will the Honourable Member be pleased to lay on the table a statement giving the names, the previous qualifications and experience and the emoluments of the officers mentioned in (a) above, and then present duties, adding the name of any private firm to which any of them may have belonged before then present appointment, and indicating the emoluments which each officer mentioned in (a) above enjoyed in his immediately previous employment?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: (a) (i) 32 of whom 19 are Indians

(a) (ii) 29, including the Coal Commissioner. Of these six are Indians.

(b) Most of these officers were transferred to Supply Department from War Transport and Railway Departments. Officers recruited since the transfer of the office of the Coal Commissioner to the Supply Department have been selected in accordance with the principles followed by the Supply Department in the recruitment of officers and have been approved by me.

(c) The information asked for by the Honourable Member is being collected and will be laid on the table in due course.

REVIEW OF THE COAL COMMISSIONER'S ADMINISTRATION

17. *Mr. K. C. Neogy: (a) Will the Honourable the Supply Member be pleased to make a comprehensive statement reviewing the administration of the Coal Commissioner since 1st June, 1944, in respect of the control of production and distribution of coal in British India and indicating particularly the improvement in the production of coal of different grades, month by month, or for such other periods for which statistics may be available?

(b) What is the nature of organisation which has been set up for assisting the Coal Commissioner in regard to production and distribution of coal respectively and what are the duties and powers of the various officers belonging to the organisation?

(c) What is the target fixed for the production of coal of different grades and on what principle has this target been divided, if at all, for each colliery undertaking and to what extent have the individual collieries so far achieved or are likely to achieve the target?

(d) What different encouragements of a financial character have been granted or promised for speeding up production of coal?

(e) What further facilities by way of provision of machinery and other equipment or cheap food for labour have already been granted to the collieries, or are under contemplation?

(f) To what extent has the labour position improved in the different mining areas, and if the position has not improved up to expectation, what further steps are contemplated for the purpose of effecting the minimum necessary improvement in this matter?

(g) Are the different Indian States concerned expected to co-operate with the Government by the adoption of control measures on lines similar to those in operation in British India? Is any liaison expected to be maintained between these Indian States and the Government's Control organisation?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: (a) and (b) The Coal Commissioner is responsible for implementing the policy of Government in regard to the production and distribution of coal. He is assisted in the discharge of his duties by two Deputy Coal Commissioners.

The Deputy Coal Commissioner (Production) is the head of the State Railway Coal Department, which has been transferred to the control of the Supply Department. He is also responsible for the planning and execution of new projects and for the procurement of colliery stores required for the efficient working of Railway and privately-owned collieries. The Deputy Coal Commissioner (Production) has a staff of seven junior officers at headquarters.

The Deputy Coal Commissioner (Distribution) is responsible

- (i) for estimating requirements and for allocation of coal,
- (ii) for the grading and inspection of coal, and
- (iii) for fuel economy measures and other miscellaneous matters connected with these responsibilities.

The Deputy Coal Commissioner (Distribution) is also the Transport Advisory Officer of the Railway Board. He is assisted by a Joint Deputy Coal Commissioner (Distribution) and by nine junior officers at headquarters.

There are also seven Regional Coal Controllers who are the chief executive officers of the Coal Commissioner in the coalfields. They are stationed in the coalfields of Bengal, Bihar, Punjab, Baluchistan, Assam and Central Provinces. The duties of the Regional Coal Controllers, briefly, are

- (i) To report to the Coal Commissioner, for procurement action, essential requirements of stores for the collieries in their areas,
- (ii) To bring to the notice of the Coal Commissioner problems such as shortages of labour and transportation difficulties which are hampering production and to suggest measures to improve production,
- (iii) To control the stacking of coal by collieries and distribute wagons in accordance with the general orders of the Coal Commissioner, and
- (iv) To control the grading, sampling and inspection staff under the direction of the Coal Commissioner.

The total quantity of coal raised throughout India during the four months, June to September, 1944, during which this organisation has been developed, was, in fact, slightly lower than the output in the corresponding period of last year. It is not in the public interest to publish figures of actual raisings or the distribution between different grades. Government have not so far exercised any control over production. The coal shortage has been so acute that any coal that could possibly be produced has had to be used. The system of distribution will be described in answer to the Honourable Member's next question.

The office of the Coal Commissioner was transferred to the Department of Supply with effect from the 1st of June, and these four months have really been a period of organisation. They are ordinarily among the most difficult months of the year for coal raisings. Every effort has been concentrated on maintaining production during this difficult period—and in fact average production during the four months June-September has fallen less in comparison with the first five months of the year than in the corresponding period of 1943 and the earlier deterioration has been arrested to some extent. The main object has, however, inevitably been to set up the organisation necessary for the planned use of facilities for production when labour conditions recover after the harvest period. In particular, every thing possible has been done to expedite supplies of imported mechanical equipment, without which in the existing labour condition a substantial improvement in output cannot be hoped for.

(c) No target for the production of coal of different grades has yet been fixed. As I have already said, there is a general shortage of coal and we are anxious to get all the coal that can be produced. The position in respect of the production of superior coal is particularly difficult and, whatever the overall target, we can only aim at producing the maximum possible proportion of the better qualities of coal. As far as individual collieries are concerned, however, targets have been fixed after taking into account such factors as the capacity of the mine, previous raisings and particular individual difficulties for the purpose of operating the production Bonus Scheme, details of which are given in the answer to part (d) of this question.

(d) (i) A special depreciation at the rate of 50 per cent per annum is allowed on coal-mining machinery for purposes of income-tax and excess profits tax. This special depreciation is allowed on all items, not being replacements necessary for maintaining or increasing coal production and will be admissible for a period of two years from the date of bringing the items concerned into use.

(ii) Government have also agreed to advance loans to the colliery owners for capital expenditure up to the limit of the amount at their credit in the compulsory deposit under the Excess Profits Tax Act at the rate of interest paid by Government on such deposits.

(iii) In order to encourage production special bonus which will not be eligible to excess profits tax will be paid to collieries in respect of production in excess of the target figures fixed as already described. These targets will remain effective until March 31st, 1946, except for new undertakings or where for special reasons they need to be reduced. The bonus will be payable at intervals of six months on the basis of each half year's raisings at a rate calculated as follows:

(a) In respect of excess coal not exceeding 10 per cent of the target figure 10 per cent of the price of the excess.

(b) In respect of excess coal exceeding 10 per cent but not exceeding 20 per cent of the target figure 20 per cent of the price of such excess, and

(c) In respect of excess coal exceeding 20 per cent of the target figure 25 per cent of the price of such excess.

(e) *Machinery.* The requirements of collieries of all categories of mining stores and equipment in short supply are reported to the Coal Commissioner who gives all possible assistance regarding import or indigenous supply. A special officer has been appointed to progress all the outstanding commercial orders in the United Kingdom and current demands for specialised mining equipment on behalf of both State and private collieries are now bulked and placed through Government channels in addition to such equipment which will be purchased by collieries themselves. Government have acquired special mechanical equipment for the development of open cast mining which will be available for use in State and private collieries on special terms.

Food. A plan was introduced in the collieries in April last, under which each mine-worker is entitled to draw a basic standard ration on payment of controlled prices and also gets a ration of $\frac{1}{2}$ of the basic ration at the concession rate of six seers to the rupee. In addition, a manual worker gets free, $\frac{1}{2}$ seer of rice for each attendance, and each worker is granted by the owner of the mine for each day he attends work a sum of two annas, if he is a worker without dependents, three annas if he is a worker with one adult dependent or child or children and five annas if he is a worker with an adult dependent and a child or children.

(f) Labour attendance which had considerably deteriorated during 1943 has remained fairly steady in 1944. Since one of the principal factors affecting the supply of labour to collieries was the recruitment of labour for the Government of India works in the colliery areas, Government issued instructions stopping further recruitment of labour from the colliery areas for such works and also to discharge such local labour as soon as possible. In

addition Government has arranged for the importation of unskilled labour from outside, principally from Gorakhpur in the United Provinces. There are already about 30,000 Gorakhpur labourers in the coalfields, and it is proposed to raise this figure to 40,000 before the end of this year.

Government has also under consideration a scheme under which licences will be required for labour recruitment from the colliery areas for works outside such areas.

(g) Yes

Sir Henry Richardson. Is the Honourable Member aware that the continued shortage to which he refers in the output of coal is very largely due to the inordinate delay by the military authorities in releasing from the army the staff which is required to replace casualties in the coal mines which are very urgently required?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar. I must confess that that fact has not so far been brought to my notice.

Sir Henry Richardson: Does the Honourable Member know that some of these casualties have been recommended for replacement by the Coal Commissioner himself?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: It has not come to my notice, but I will look into the matter.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: In view of the fact that the Government of India give bonuses to the mine-owners, will they also give bonus to the miners for the production which they give?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar. That is a matter which is to be considered in consultation with my Honourable Colleague, the Labour Member, but I can assure my Honourable friend that colliery owners will indeed be very glad if the output is so increased by the worker as to entitle him to receive bonus on the output.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I ask whether the Honourable Member expects the miner to give production first and then get bonus or is he willing to give bonus first and then see whether the production is increased or not?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: In some of the mines—I am not sure if it is the case in all mines—colliery owners have already got a scheme of bonus for increased production, but all my information goes to show that the production now per miner is very much less than it used to be a year or two back.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Is the Honourable Member aware that the production in coal mines suffers on account of the bad labour conditions that exist in Indian mines?

Mrs. Renuka Ray: Is the Honourable Member aware that there is a shortage of tubs for men and women who go down and sometimes remain there the whole night waiting for tubs, with the result that they do not get even the ration of rice free?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: I am aware that there is still a shortage of tubs and we are considering to make that good as rapidly as possible. I am not aware and I would be completely surprised if it was a fact that any women labourers are underground in the mines during the nights. That is my information and I shall certainly be surprised if it turns out to be correct. I am not aware also that the loading by the miners is less on account of the shortage of tubs. In fact, the complaint everywhere is that there is not as much loading by the miners as it used to be about 18 months back.

Mrs. Renuka Ray: Will the Honourable Member find out if there are women labourers who work underground at night?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: If the Honourable Lady has got fairly authentic or reliable information that that is so, I will certainly make inquiries.

Mrs. Renuka Ray: I have got that information that it is being done.

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: That there are women labourers underground during the nights?

Mrs. Renuka Ray: My information is that women labourers do work underground during the night at some mines. Occasionally they come up in the morning, without earning anything as they do not get tubs and they complain that in these circumstances, the free allowance of $\frac{1}{2}$ seer of rice is also not given to them.

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: If the Honourable Lady will kindly furnish me with the names of mines where such complaints were made, I shall certainly follow up the matter.

Mrs. Renuka Ray: Thank you. I shall certainly do so.

Mr. Manu Subedar: When the Coal Control was established, the Government gave us to understand that the normal trade channels would be used as far as possible. May I ask the Honourable Member if he will stop the practice of elimination of normal trade channels which the Coal Controller is now adopting?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: According to my information, the usual trade channels are being availed of as far as possible. Quite recently, I do admit a complaint was made to me at Bombay that in some cases, with reference to some Indian State Railways, the trade channels were being eliminated and that direct contacts were being made between the State Railways and the collieries at the instance of the Coal Controller. I said I would examine that question. This is the information I have had on the subject. I will try to find out whether the circumstances have justified a change in the accepted policy of the Government to use the usual trade channels, as far as possible.

(b) WRITTEN ANSWERS.

SYSTEM OF DISTRIBUTION OF COAL UNDER COAL CONTROL SCHEME

18. ***Mr. K. C. Neogy:** Will the Honourable the Supply Member be pleased to make a comprehensive statement explaining in detail the system of distribution of coal under the Coal Control Scheme and indicating particularly—

(i) the adjustments that may have been made between the requirements of consumption within the country and those outside the shores of India,

(ii) the principles on which allocation has been made between different classes of consumers in the country including different categories of industries,

(iii) the prices that have been fixed by Government of different grades of coal in different mining areas and the principles that have governed the prices fixed,

(iv) the complaints, if any, that may have been received from any consuming interest in the country regarding the system of distribution of coal, the quotas and quantities of supply, quality or price, and the action taken on such complaints, and

(v) any financial liability of Government involved in the operation of the distribution scheme in any of its aspects?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: By the middle of every month Government of India receive, from the Coal Commissioner, an estimate of the coal which is likely to be available for despatch from all the important coalfields throughout the country in the following month. He also sends proposals for the allocation of coal to the different groups of consumers. This is largely done with reference to the allocations in the previous months, and after taking into account the seasonal or urgent requirements that are anticipated. Proposed allocations are discussed at a Committee of Secretaries of all departments interested in the allocation of coal during the ensuing month. The recommendations of the Secretaries' Committee are submitted to the W R C C for their information and orders.

Thereafter, the allocation is communicated to the Coal Commissioner as well as to the various Departments of Government who, in their turn, either themselves inform the Coal Commissioner the subsequent allocation of coal to the different units of each industry or in some cases ask the industry itself to send to the Coal Commissioner its recommendation for distribution to the component units of the industry. The Coal Commissioner accordingly issues programmes on the collieries for the ensuing month and arranges that the coal reaches the parties for whom it is intended. Weekly reports of despatches in bulk to different industries are reported to the Department of Supply, and a check on the distribution is, therefore, constantly maintained. The different Departments of the Government keep in constant touch with the industries which are their concern, and in a fairly large number of cases the industries do not hesitate to approach the Coal Commissioner direct. All such requests are carefully considered. With reference to the specific queries made by the Honourable Member—

(i) Apart from the bunkering coal India's existing coal position no longer admits of any exports being made. Exports of Indian coal have accordingly ceased for some time. Coal required for bunkering is about 4 per cent of the monthly output. All other coal is consumed in the country.

(ii) Rations were first fixed in October 1943 for each industry on the basis of actual supplies made during the 12 months period from August 1942 to July 1943, and with reference to the essentiality of each industry and the total amount of coal estimated to be available for despatch. Allocations continue to be fixed monthly on the same basis. I have already described the actual distribution procedure.

(iii) A copy of Government of India Department of Supply Notification No. 953, dated 14th July 1944 together with a copy of the subsequent amendment is laid on the table of the House.

In respect of Bengal and Bihar Coal, the prices are broadly based on quality. The prices for Baluchistan and Punjab Coal were based on the prices then current in these provinces. For C P Coal the prices fixed were the same as for Grade II Coal from the Jharia field. These prices have since been revised in the case of certain collieries in C P, which could not get a fair margin of profit under the prices originally fixed. Prices for Assam Coal were based on the recommendation of the local authorities.

(iv) No specific complaints have been received from any consumers regarding the present system of coal distribution or about the prices fixed for coal. There have been some complaints about inadequate quotas or supplies. These are dealt with in consultation with the authority responsible for looking after the coal requirements of the consumer concerned.

Complaints have also been received regarding the quality of coal. The supply of inferior coal during recent months has been due to inadequate raisings and the consequent serious depletion of coal stocks in the coal fields. The position should be rectified with the improvement of raisings.

(v) No financial liability rests on Government in respect of supplies to non Government consumers. For coal purchased by the Supply Department for stacking or for supply to Government Departments and semi-Government bodies, the liability rests on Government.

Department of Supply, Notification No. 953, New Delhi, the 14th July 1944

In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-clause (1) of Clause 4 of the Colliery Control Order, 1944, and in supersession of the notification of the Government of India in the Department of Supply, No. 640, dated the 31st May 1944, as subsequently amended, the Central Government is pleased to fix as follows the prices at which coal may be sold by colliery owners:—

I All Collieries in the Provinces of Bengal and Bihar

(a) Coal.

Grade of coal	Price		
	Large coal and slack	Run of mine	Rubble and Smutthy nuts.
	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.
Selected Grade A	13 0 0	12 8 0	13 4 0
Selected Grade B	12 0 0	11 8 0	12 4 0
Grade I	11 2 0	10 10 0	11 6 0
Grade II	10 12 0	10 4 0	11 0 0
Grade III A	10 6 0	9 14 0	10 10 0
Grade III B	10 0 0	9 8 0	10 4 0

NOTE — For the purposes of the above table the grade of any coal will be determined as follows —

Coal from Seams of the Ranigang Series

If the ash and moisture content thereof—

- (i) does not exceed 17.5 per cent Selected Grade A
- (ii) exceeds 17.5 per cent, but does not exceed 19 per cent Selected Grade B
- (iii) exceeds 19 per cent, but does not exceed 24 per cent Grade I

Coal from any other Seams

If the ash content thereof—

- (i) does not exceed 15 per cent Selected Grade A
- (ii) exceeds 15 per cent, but does not exceed 17 per cent Selected Grade B
- (iii) exceeds 17 per cent, but does not exceed 20 per cent Grade I
- (iv) exceeds 20 per cent, but does not exceed 24 per cent Grade II
- (v) exceeds 24 per cent, but does not exceed 28 per cent Grade III-A
- (vi) exceeds 28 per cent, but does not exceed 35 per cent Grade III-B

Mineral having an ash content in excess of 35 per cent shall not be vendible as coal

(b) Coke

Grade of Coke	Price		
	Large	Rubble or Smutthy over 1"	
	Rs.	A.	P.
Soft Coke—not exceeding 45 per cent ash content	19	0	0
Hard Coke—from By-product ovens if the ash content does not exceed 22 per cent	30	0	0
Hard Coke—from By-product ovens if the ash content exceeds 22 per cent, but does not exceed 30 per cent	24	0	0
Hard Coke—from Beehive or country ovens—			
if the ash content does not exceed 22 per cent			
if the ash content exceeds 22 per cent, but does not exceed 30 per cent			
	33	0	0
	27	0	0
Coke Brease.	4	0	0

NOTE 1.—The prices given under (a) and (b) are for delivery free on rail at, or at the loading point nearest to, the colliery, or free on tramway at the colliery, or free on road vehicle at the colliery

2 The prices do not apply to retail sales of less than one ton on any one day for delivery by road

II Collieries in Baluchistan

Area in which colliery situated	Lease holder of colliery	No of Lease	Price for			Station at which prices apply
			Slack coal	Large coal		
				Rs	As		P
1	2	3	4	5	6	8
Quetta	R S Tikamdas	58	29	12	0	Quetta
Do	Do	59	29	12	0	"
Do	Do	126	29	12	0	"
Do	Mr Sorabji	128	29	12	0	"
Do	Mr Wilayat Hussain	73	29	12	0	"
Do	Do	77	29	12	0	"
Do	Do	92	29	12	0	"
Do	Do	98	29	12	0	"
Mach	All leases		24	8	0	Mach
Sharigh	R S Tikamdas	61	18	4	0	Sharigh
Do	Do	66	19	4	0	"
Do	Do	103	24	4	0	"
Do	Do	164	18	12	0	"
Do	Mr Nanak Chand Choomi	116	20	4	0	"
Do	Do	145	17	12	0	"
Do	Mr Wilayat Hussain	160	20	4	0	"
Do	Do	162	19	12	0	"
Do	Minek Colliery	76	20	4	0	"
Do	Mr F B Patel	94	22	4	0	"
Do	Mr Pand Khan	137	23	4	0	"
Do	Mr K A Marker	138	24	4	0	"
Khost	Associated Cement Co	104	18	12	0	Khost
Do	Do	105	19	4	0	"
Do	Do	163	20	12	0	"
Do	Mr Ram Narain Satyapal	162	20	12	0	"
Zardalu	R S Tikamdas	133	18	12	0	Zardalu
Do	Mr K A Marker	134	17	12	0	"
Do	Mr Jalad Khan	135	19	4	0	"
Spevand	All leases		26	4	0	Spevand

NOTE—The prices given above are for delivery at the stations named

III All Collieries in the Punjab

	Grade of coal	Price	
		Rs	As P
Slack		20	0 0
Run of mine		20	0 0
Large coal		22	0 0

NOTE—The prices given above are for delivery free on rail at the colliery or free on road vehicle at the colliery, except that in the case of coal from Mackerrall Company's collieries the prices are for delivery for Trug Station

IV All Collieries in the Central Provinces and Berar and in Orissa

	Grade of coal	Price	
		Rs	As P
Large coal and slack coal		10	18 0
Run of mine		10	4 0
Rubble and smutty nuts		11	0 0

NOTE 1—The prices given above are for delivery free on rail at, or at the loading point nearest to the colliery, or free on tramway at the colliery, or free on road vehicle at the colliery,

2 The prices do not apply to retail sales of less than one ton on any one day for delivery by road

V Collieries in Assam

Name of colliery	Grade of coal or coals	Price	
		Rs	As P
The Assam Railways and Trading Co Ltd's Margherita Collieries	Run of mine	20	0 0
Do	Dust Coal	20	0 0
Do	Hand picked coal	30	0 0
Do	Hard coals	75	0 0
Nazira Coal Co Ltd's Borgon Colliery	Run of mine	30	0 0
Dilli Colliery Company's Dilli Colliery	Run of mine	25	0 0
Cherra-Chattack Ropeway Co's Cherra pump Colliery	Run-of mine	22	0 0

NOTE—The prices given above are for delivery free on rail at the colliery, except that the price in the case of the Dilli Colliery Company's coal is free on road vehicle at the colliery and the price in the case of the Cherra Chattack Ropeway Company's coal is free on ropeway at the colliery.

Explanations—1 The prices given in the above tables are—

(a) per ton of 2 240 lbs
(b) exclusive of Stowing Excise duty Rescue Station Excise duty Soft Coke Cess Excise duty and any other additional Excise duty cess or impost which the Central Government may hereafter declare to be payable by consumers of coal but are inclusive of all other cesses or imposts and

(c) Exclusive of middleman's Commission
2 When delivery is free on rail the weight charged for shall be the weight ascertained at a railway weigh bridge and when delivery is free on tramway or road vehicle the weight shall be ascertained in such manner as may be prescribed by the Coal Commissioner

A A WAUGH Secy.

*Government of India Department of Supply (Main Secretariat) Notification
No 1521 New Delhi the 19th October 1944*

In exercise of the powers conferred by sub clause (1) of clause 4 of the Colliery Control Order 1944 and in supersession of the notification of the Government of India in the Department of Supply No 953 dated the 14th July 1944 in so far as it relates to the Collieries in the Central Provinces specified below the Central Government is pleased to fix as follows the prices at which coal produced in the said collieries may be sold by colliery owners

Name of colliery and name of Proprietor	Grade of coal	Price Rs A P
1 Kolha Hirdagarh Co Ltd Kolha collieries		
2 M/s Budhooal Jagannath Proprietors South Panara Colliery		
3 M/s C P Syndicate Ltd Receivers Junnardeo No 2 Colliery	Large coal slack coal and dust coal	12 12 0
R b Mathuraprasad Motilal & Co Proprietors Jamai Datia colliery		
5 M/s Jasaraj Deoraj Proprietors, Sangham Collieries	Run of mine	12 4 0
6 M/s H N Ojha & Co Ltd Palachouri Colliery		
7 R S P S Sual & Co Proprietors Ghogr Colliery	Rubble and Smithy nuts	13 0 0
8 Muehrial Meghraj & Co Ambara Colliery		
9 Walji Bhumi & Sons Proprietors Ghogr Barkhui Colliery		
10 Kushenhand & Co Dhao Colliery		
11 K S M Hasonji & sons Proprietors East Barkhui Colliery		
12 M/s J A Trivedi Brothers West Barkhui Colliery		
13 M/s Karunehand Thaper & Co Proprietors Rawanwar Khas Colliery		
14 Nandlal Esq Narainpur Road Chhindwara Proprietor Haran Chatta Colliery		
15 M/s Newton Chickel Collieries Limited Proprietors Ekelehra Colliery		
16 Sree Mohakali Coal Mines Ltd Proprietors Amritlal Ojha & Co Ltd		
17 M/s Shivax C Cambata & Co Ltd Proprietors Rakikol Collieries		
18 M/s C P Syndicate Ltd Proprietors Kalichhapar Collieries	Large coal slack coal and dust coal	13 12 0
19 M/s Kanhera Valley Coal Co Ltd Damus Collieries	Run of mine	13 4 0
20 M/s Budhooal Jagannath Proprietors East Nandora Collieries	Rubble and Smithy nuts	14 0 0
21 I T Warde Esq Proprietor Ghorawan kalan Collieries		
22 M/s The Hirdagarh Collieries Ltd Hirdagarh		

NOTE—(1) The prices given above are for delivery free on rail at or at the loading point nearest to the colliery or free on road vehicle at the colliery

(2) The prices do not apply to retail sales of less than one ton on any one day for delivery by road

(3) The prices given above are

(a) per ton of 2 240 lbs

(b) exclusive of Stowing Excise duty Rescue Station Excise duty Soft Coke Cess Excise duty, and any other additional Excise duty cess or impost which the Central Government may hereafter declare to be payable by consumers of coal, but are inclusive of all other cesses or imposts,

(c) exclusive of middleman's commission, and

(d) inclusive of all tramway charges.

4 When delivery is free on rail, the weight charged for shall be the weight ascertained at a railway weighbridge and when delivery is free on road vehicle the weight shall be ascertained in such manner as may be prescribed by the coal Commissioner.

Sd ILLEGIBLE

for A.A WAUGH,

Secretary to the Government of India.

STEPS TO CONTROL MINING OPERATIONS AS REGARDS A COLLIERY UNDER DEFENCE OF INDIA RULES OR COAL CONTROL SCHEME

19. *Mr. K. C. Neogy: (a) Will the Honourable the Supply Member be pleased to indicate the steps, if any, that may have been taken to control mining operations with reference to any individual colliery under the Defence of India Rules or under the Coal Control Scheme with the object of either expanding or restricting its activities?

(b) Was any action taken at any time with the object of stopping the despatch of coal from any colliery? If so, in how many cases, and in what circumstances was such action taken?

(c) Was any coal stacked in individual collieries as a result of any action taken under the authority of Government? If so, during what periods and for what reasons, and to which grades did such coal belong?

(d) How much coal was at any time stacked on Government account and in what circumstances, and what payments were made therefor? Was any complaint received in connection with such stacking in any case, and, if so, to what effect?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: (a), (b) and (c) Government have not so far exercised the powers to regulate mining operations in any particular case under the Defence of India Rules.

A scheme for the stacking of coal by about 92 collieries in the Bengal and Bihar coalfields was introduced in March 1944. As the production of coal in these two fields was expected to exceed the tonnage available for despatch by rail from day to day, and Government's intention was that the amount of coal, after meeting colliery requirements, should be put into stock, without reducing the rate of output either for want of wagons to clear the mechanical screens or because of the diversion of labour to stocking. Those collieries were allowed to make despatches of coal only when wagons became available after meeting the demands of the other collieries in the Bengal and Bihar coalfields. Soft coke and coal of the following grades viz Run-of-mine, Slack and Steam were stacked.

(d) It was estimated that about 8,65,600 tons would be put into stock. The figures of the actual amount of payments made are not available, but Government orders provide for advance payments up to 90 per cent of the value of the coal stacked, and the balance of 10 per cent on despatch of coal by the collieries. No complaints have so far been received with regard to the stacking orders from any individual colliery, though when the Scheme was first introduced, the Indian Mining Association and the Indian Mining Federation objected to the whole scheme. The Indian Colliery Owners' Association have, however, raised the question of minimum royalty and commission to the royalty receivers in connection with the Stacking Scheme. This is under consideration.

REQUESTING GOVERNMENTS OF UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND UNITED KINGDOM TO RELEASE TRANSPORT MACHINES TO CIVIL AVIATION COMPANIES IN INDIA

20. *Sir F. E. James: Will the Secretary for Posts and Air please state

(a) if he has seen the statement which recently appeared in *Austral News* published monthly from the office of the Australian Government Trade Commissioner in India, that the Australian Government have authorised the importation now, during the war, of transport aeroplanes that Australian National Airways have decided to purchase Douglas and Lockheed aircraft for operation on Australian civil air routes, and that pending their delivery, a number of Douglas C-47s will be released to the company from the United States of America for immediate operation;

(b) if he is aware that civil aviation companies in India are unable to obtain transport machines or spare parts from either the United Kingdom or the United States of America, and are, therefore either operating their services with great difficulty or seriously curtailing them, and

(c) if, in view of the importance, both to the war effort and to the development of civil aviation in India after the war of maintaining adequate civil air transport services in India, and, in view of the willingness of the Governments of the United States of America and the United Kingdom to release air transport machines to the Australian National Airways company for immediate operation on civil air routes in Australia, the Government of India will urgently request those Governments to arrange for the release of suitable air transport machines to companies operating civil air routes in India?

Mr. W. H. Shoobert (a) Yes.

(b) Government have constantly in mind the difficulties which the air transport companies in India experience in maintaining their operations due to lack of spare parts and other supplies but the fact is that both Tatas and Indian National Airways have been employed to operate Government aircraft on air services essential to the war effort and the total operations now carried out by each company are larger than before the war.

(c) Government have not relaxed efforts to obtain suitable transport aircraft to employ these companies in support of the war effort to the utmost of their capacity, subject to the prior demands of military operations. They are continuing these efforts.

Government are glad to take the opportunity of paying a tribute to the assistance to the war effort given both by Tata Air Lines and by Indian National Airways since the beginning of the war.

ORDERS IN THE UNITED PROVINCES FOR HOLDING POSTAL UNION MEETINGS ONLY ON SUNDAYS AND POSTAL HOLIDAYS

21. *Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi. (a) Will the Secretary for Posts and Air please state if it is a fact that the postal employees were allowed to hold the meetings of their Union any day in the week outside the working hours of the office?

(b) Is it or is it not a fact that recently orders have been issued in the United Provinces that postal workers can hold the meetings only on Sundays and postal holidays?

(c) If the answer to (b) be in the affirmative, have the Government considered the great inconvenience to the postal employees caused by the new rule who have got to postpone all their private work for the few holidays of this department and can easily dispose of the short work of the Union on working days even?

(d) Have the Government considered the advisability of changing the new rule and resorting to the old practice? If not, why not?

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: (a) Postal employees can hold the meetings of their Union when and where they like so long as it does not interfere with their duties.

(b) Yes, but those orders only apply to meetings held on the premises of Post or Telegraph offices.

(c) Government are not aware of any inconvenience caused to Postal employees by the restriction imposed. It is open to them to hold such meetings on week days at a place other than the P & T office premises.

(d) There are no rules but the orders imposing the restriction were issued because on week days the premises of a Post or Telegraph office cannot be conveniently spared and also because it has been found that the meetings were not always conducted in an orderly manner. Government do not propose to interfere with the orders of the Postmaster-General.

WRONG ENTRIES MADE IN REGISTER OF QUALIFICATIONS OF LINEMEN BY SUB-DIVISIONAL OFFICERS, TELEGRAPHS, LAHORE SUB-DIVISION

22. *Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: Will the Secretary for Posts and Air be pleased to state with reference to parts (b) and (c) of starred question

No 760 put on the 3d April, 1944 and the replies thereof regarding forging of Register of qualifications of Linemen by the Sub-Divisional Officer, Telegraphs, Lahore Sub-Division, declaring literate Muslim Linemen as illiterate and illiterate Hindu Linemen as literate—

- (a) the action taken against the said Sub-Divisional Officer,
- (b) the result of action, if any, taken against the said Sub-Divisional Officer;
- (c) the extent and nature of punishment, if any, inflicted on the said officer for such a deliberate and during forgery?

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: The matter is still under investigation. It has, however, been found that the inaccuracies applied equally to Muslims and Hindus.

OFFICERS OF CLASS I, ETC., GRANTED EXTENSIONS OF SERVICE IN POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS AND METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENTS

23. *Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani. (a) Will the Secretary for Posts and Air please lay on the table with reference to incomplete replies of starred question No 761 put on the 3rd April, 1944, a complete statement as required by starred question No 761 of 3rd April, 1944?

(b) What steps has he taken to make good the differences in the representation of Muslim services in the department referred in the said question?

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: (a) A complete statement is placed on the table of the House.

(b) The question does not arise so far as vacancies filled by departmental promotions are concerned as the Government orders about reservations on a communal basis do not apply to such vacancies. As regards vacancies filled by direct recruitment, the communal orders have been strictly followed. The short recruitment of Muslims in the grades of Engineering Supervisors and Wireless Operators, to which direct recruitment is made, was due to the dearth of qualified candidates of that community. The rules for recruitment have since been suitably modified with a view to securing, as far as possible, the due representation of Muslims and other minority communities in these grades.

As regards telegraphists, there is an overall short recruitment of 12 Muslims in 1943 due to the required number of candidates of that community not appearing at the examination in the Bengal and Assam and Sind and Baluchistan Circles. The rules already permitted the Department to go down the list in order to secure the full quota of candidates under any communal head but the shortage occurred despite this fact. The system of recruitment by means of a competitive examination has since been suspended and recruitment is now made direct from the open market.

As regards the apparent shortage of Muslims in the four gazetted posts filled by direct appointment in 1943 in the P & T Department [vide statement No 3 in reply to part (c) of the Starred Question No 761 dated the 3rd April 1944], this is due to the fact that the direct appointments made were those of a probationer recruited to the Telegraph Engineering Service, Class I, against an unreserved vacancy and of three probationers recruited to the Postal Superintendents' Service, Class II, against two unreserved vacancies and a vacancy reserved for other minority communities.

Similarly, the shortage of Muslims in the Meteorological Department is due to the very small number of qualified members of that community being available. Special efforts, viz., lowering of minimum educational qualifications, grant of higher initial pay, wide advertisement through Newspapers and Universities, etc. have been made to attract more Muslim candidates into the Meteorological Service and I am glad to say there has been some improvement in the position during 1944.

Statements

	1942				1943.			
	Total Recruitment		No of Muslim		Total Recruitment		No of Muslim	
	Deptl	Outside	Deptl	Outside	Deptl	Outside	Deptl	Outside
Telegraphists	34	123	5	57	115	455	15	103
Telegraph Masters	60	..			54		1	
Engineering Supervisors	4	47	..		70	210	7	43
Wireless Operators		24		1	2	120	2	22

NOTE.—There is no direct recruitment to the grade of Telegraph Masters and Communal reservation rules do not apply to posts filled by promotion

RECRUITMENT OF INSPECTORS UNDER POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT

24. *Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: (a) Will the Secretary for Posts and Air please state whether the recruitment of Inspectors under Post and Telegraph is open to outsiders, if not, why not?

(b) Is direct recruitment allowed in Post and Telegraph services of subordinate and superior ranks? If so, why the same principle does not apply to the recruitment of Inspectors?

Mr. W. H. Shoober: (a) No, as in the interests of efficiency it is essential that Inspectors in the Posts and Telegraphs Department should have practical experience of the work of Postmasters and possess a detailed working knowledge of the departmental rules and procedure

(b) Direct recruitment is made in certain subordinate and superior services of the Posts and Telegraphs Department. In view of the reply given to part (a) of the question, the latter part does not arise

RECRUITMENT IN TEMPORARY GAZETTED POSTS UNDER POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS AND METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENTS

25. *Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: Will the Secretary for Posts and Air be pleased to state the number of persons recruited in temporary gazetted vacancies in 1942, 1943 and January to July 1944 under (1) Post and Telegraph Department and (2) Meteorological Department?

Mr. W. H. Shoober: I lay a statement on the table giving the information asked for by the Honourable Member

Statement showing the No of persons recruited in temporary gazetted vacancies in 1942, 1943 and January to July 1944 under the Posts and Telegraphs and the Indian Meteorological Departments

Posts and Telegraphs Department	
1942	21
1943	12
1944	7
(January—July)	
Indian Meteorological Department	
1942	32
1943	27
1944	19
(January—July)	

PAUCITY OF MUSLIM TELEGRAPH MASTERS AND WIRELESS OPERATORS

26. *Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: Will the Secretary for Posts and Air be pleased to state, with reference to rephes of starred question No 761

(b), why—

(a) out of 60 appointments in 1942 and 54 appointments in 1943—altogether 114 appointments of Telegraph Masters—only one appointment was given to Muslims, and

(b) out of 24 direct appointments of Wireless Operators in 1942 only one went to Muslims?

Mr. W. H. Shoober: (a) Apparently the Honourable Member is referring to the number of telegraphists selected for promotion to the grade of Telegraph Masters in 1942 and 1943 and not to the actual number of appointments

made in that grade in those years. Only one Muslim telegraphist was selected because no other Muslim telegraphist was eligible for selection under the rules.

(b) This recruitment was made from amongst the applicants who had already received training in private institutions and were competent as Wireless Operators. To the advertisement inviting applications from such qualified persons, the response from Muslim candidates was poor. Only two Muslim candidates submitted applications and both were selected for the prescribed signalling test. One of them failed in the test but the other did not appear. In view of the paucity of Muslims, another advertisement calling for applications from only Muslim candidates was published. Application from only one Muslim was received and he was recruited. The shortage of Muslims in this recruitment of 24 candidates was due to the lack of response from the members of this community.

APPOINTMENT OF POST-WAR PLANNING OFFICER UNDER POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT

27. *Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: Will the Secretary for Posts and Air be pleased to state

(a) whether any Post-War Planning Officer has been appointed under the Posts and Telegraphs Department, if so, his salary and qualifications,

(b) whether the post was advertised, if so, in what papers,

(c) the total number of applications received and the number of Muslim applications, if any, received,

(d) what other officers have been or are contemplated to be appointed under the Planning Officer, if so, their number, salary and qualifications, and

(e) whether any scheme of the post-war planning or reconstruction has been sanctioned by the Assembly or the Standing Finance Committee, if so, when, and what are the details?

Mr. W. H. Shoober: (a) An Assistant Deputy Director-General of the Posts and Telegraphs Directorate has been temporarily appointed as Post-War Planning Officer on his own pay of Rs 875 per month. He is a Superintendent of Post Offices of 17 years' service in the Department and is a graduate in Arts and Law.

(b) No

(c) Does not arise

(d) No other officer has been or is proposed to be appointed at present

(e) No. The second part of the question does not arise

INADEQUATE WAGES AND SALARIES ON OUDH AND TIRHUT RAILWAY.

28 Mr. R. E. Gupta: Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state whether it is a fact that wages and salaries in the Oudh and Tirhut Railway are inadequate as compared with the wages and salaries of comparable posts in the Industries and other Railways under State management?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Government understand that there is little difference between the wages paid to labour in local industries and on the O & T Railway. The scales of pay for certain subordinate and inferior categories on contiguous State-managed Railways are higher than those obtaining on the O & T Railway.

IMPORTING OF STAFF FROM OTHER RAILWAYS TO SUPERIOR POSTS ON OUDH AND TIRHUT RAILWAY

29. *Mr. R. E. Gupta: Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state whether as a result of the policy being followed by the Railway Board, namely importing staff from other Railways to superior posts in the Oudh and Tirhut Railway, the old employees of the Oudh and Tirhut Railway are deprived from getting promotions and increments?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I presume that by the term "superior posts" the Honourable Member is referring to gazetted posts. Government have not adopted any policy of importing staff from other railways to the

Oudh & Tirhut Railway Some inter-railway transfers have to be made occasionally in the interests of the administration, as a result of which promotions are sometimes retarded or accelerated

FOOD GRAIN DEPARTMENT OF OUDH AND TIRHUT RAILWAY

30. *Mr. B. B. Gupta: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state if it is a fact that the Food Grain Department of the Oudh and Tirhut Railway has not submitted proper accounts for an amount of Rs 5,50,000?

(b) If the answer to (a) above is in the affirmative, what action have the Government taken to secure proper accounts?

(c) Do the Railway Board propose to set up an enquiry into the affairs of the Food Grains Department of the Oudh and Tirhut Railway?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall (a) It is not a fact

(b) Does not arise

(c) No

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

PREPONDERANCE OF MUSLIMS IN ACME ESTABLISHMENT SECTION, NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY HEADQUARTERS OFFICE

1. Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: With reference to the reply to unstarred question No 22 given on the 30th July, 1943, to the effect that the Railway Board considered it desirable that no particular community should be handicapped by the preponderance of any one community in the establishment offices of railways, will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state

(a) Whether it is a fact that some time ago when the strength of the Acme Establishment Section in the North Western Railway Headquarters Office was four, it was represented by all communities, namely Muslims, Hindus, Sikhs and Christians,

(b) Whether it is a fact that the present strength of this Section is eight of which seven posts are held by Muslims and one by a Hindu, if so, why,

(c) Whether it is a fact that transfers of members of certain communities have been made from the Acme Establishment Section of the North Western Railway Headquarters Office, if so, why, and

(d) Whether it is a fact that the Acme Establishment Section deals with most important personnel matters and important service records, approved lists, etc., are also maintained in this section, whether it is proposed to allow reasonable representation to every community in this Section, if not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a), (b) and (c) The reply is in the negative

(d) The work referred to is assigned to this section and it is important, but so is the work of Clerks in certain other sections of the Establishment Branch. The posting of staff to the various sections is done with regard to the interests of work and not by communities, the direction concerning the avoidance of a preponderance of any one community is applicable to the Branch as a whole and not to the various sections and sub-sections of the Branch

ELIGIBILITY OF GOODS MARKERS ON NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY FOR TRAINING IN COMMERCIAL COURSE AT WALTON SCHOOL

2. Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state whether Goods Markers on the North Western Railway are eligible for training in commercial course at the Walton School? If so, how many of them were sent since the 1st April, 1943, and to which communities did they belong?

(b) Is their service as Goods Markers considered as continuous for promotion in Commercial group posts, on passing through the Walton's School? If not, why not?

(c) What stipend in cash or by way of free food and other concessions are allowed to Commercial Group Students, and are Goods Markers under training as such also entitled to them? If not, why not?

(d) If the reply to the last portion of (c) above be in the negative, is the period of Goods Markers' deputation on training at the Walton's School considered as on duty? If not, why not?

(e) Which other classes of staff on deputation for training at the Walton's School do not have the period of such deputation treated as on duty?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Yes, subject to their satisfying the conditions prescribed for admission to such training. Eleven Hindu and one Sikh Goods Markers were sent for training at the Walton Training School since 1st April, 1943.

(b) The reply to the first part is in the affirmative, the second part does not arise.

(c) Commercial Group students are paid a stipend of Rs. 18 per mensem from which a sum of Rs. 12-8-0 is deducted on account of messing charges. Goods Markers while under training are not entitled to any stipend, which is paid only to apprentices.

(d) The period spent by Goods Markers in training at the Walton Training School is treated as leave due and not as on duty. This aspect of the question is being reconsidered by the Railway Administration.

(e) None.

DISMISSALS ETC. IN LAHORE, RAWALPINDI AND DELHI DIVISIONS OF NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

3. Sardar Sant Singh. Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state

(a) the number of employees (i) removed from service, and (ii) dismissed, in the Lahore, Rawalpindi and Delhi Divisions of the North Western Railway during the half year ending the 31st March, 1944, and

(b) how many of them appealed, and how many were re-instated in each of the three Divisions?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall. (a) and (b) I lay a statement on the table giving such of the required information as is readily available in respect of subordinate staff only. Information regarding inferior staff is not readily available and I cannot undertake to collect it under the present conditions.

Statement showing subordinate staff removed from service or dismissed, etc. during the half year ending 31st March 1944 in Lahore Rawalpindi and Delhi Divisions of the North Western Railway

DIVISION	Removed from Service			Dismissed from service		
	No of subordi- nates removed from service	No of staff who appealed against their removal from service,	No of staff who were reinstated as a result of appeal	No of subordi- nates dismissed from service	No of staff who appealed against dismissal	No of staff who were reinstated as a result of appeal
Lahore	6	1				
Rawalpindi	16	4		1	1	
Delhi	36	20	7	1		

CERTAIN MEASURES FOR MAINTENANCE OF DISCIPLINE ON RAILWAYS

4. Sardar Sant Singh: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state whether penalty of 'censure' is recognized on Railways as a measure of maintaining discipline? If so, is the employee called upon to explain his conduct for which it is proposed to censure him, and is there any provision for appeal? If not, why not?

(b) Where is the entry of 'Censure' recorded, whether on the personal file of the employee, in a separate register or Marks Card?

(c) Is it a fact that on certain Railways a system of "good conduct marks" has been introduced to deal with cases of indiscipline and it is recommended that instead of censuring an employee, marks should be debited? Has this recommendation the effect of abrogation of Censure?

(d) Does the 'Good Conduct Marks' system provide for—

(i) obtaining an explanation,

(ii) appeal, and

(iii) the maximum number of marks that can be debited at a time?

(e) If the reply to all or any portion of (d) above be in the negative what are the reasons therefor, and what steps are proposed to be taken to remedy these defects? If none, why?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall. (a) The reply to the first part is in the affirmative. As regards the second part, there is no provision for obtaining and explanation as the penalty is of a minor character, but the right of appeal exists.

(b) This is a matter of detailed administration on which Government have no information. Provision for the entry of punishments in the Service Records of employees exists in Chapter XIX of the State Railway General Code.

(c) The good conduct marks system is designed to replace fines, cautions and warnings imposed on the subordinate staff and may also be applied instead of imposing the penalty of censure, but it does not connote the abrogation of this penalty.

(d) (i) and (ii) The existing rules do not provide specifically for obtaining an explanation or for an appeal but the question of making such provision is under consideration.

(d) (iii) The Honourable Member is referred to the reply to part (c) of Mr Lalchand Navalmi's Unstarred Question No 18 asked in the Legislative Assembly on the 22nd September 1942.

(e) Opportunity for furnishing an explanation and submitting an appeal is given when a heavier punishment is called for on a prescribed number of marks being reached, but as I have stated, the question is being further considered.

PENALTY OF RELEGATION TO JUNIOR SERVICE FOR GUARDS ON NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

5. Sardar Sant Singh: (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Guards on the North Western Railway run on Conductor, Mail and passenger links in order of their seniority, the junior most Guards running on Goods service?

(b) Are permanent Conductor, Mail or Passenger guards relegated to run on passenger or goods service, respectively, as a measure of penalty?

(c) If the reply to (b) above be in the affirmative, is such a course authorized by the State Railway Establishment Code issued by the Governor General in Council? If so, will the Honourable Member please refer to the specific provision thereof? If no such provision exists, under what rule is such a penalty inflicted on employees?

(d) Is it a fact that an employee so relegated to lower link of running service is subjected to a reduction in his wages by reduced mileage allowance?

(e) If the reply to (d) above be in the affirmative, is such a course covered by the provisions of rule 1702(B) of the State Railway Establishment Code, Volume I in regard to stoppage or reduction of mileage allowance? If not, how is then the penalty referred to in (a) above classed?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Yes, with due regard to suitability and the exigencies of the service.

(b) and (c). Transfers are made as occasion demands, and there is nothing in the rules to restrict such action being taken.

(d) There may sometimes be a reduction of running allowance actually earned but there is none in the rate of his basic pay or rate of running allowance.

(e) Yes because there is no question of a fine in such cases

OMISSION OF MEDICAL EXAMINATION FIGURES FROM NARRATIVE REPORT ON NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

6. Sardar Sant Singh: Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state,

(a) whether it is a fact that figures of (i) employees medically examined on each Division of the North Western Railway, and (ii) those who failed in their class of employment etc., were included in the Narrative Report of the Railway during the years 1938-39 and 1939-40,

(b) whether it is a fact that this information was entirely omitted from the report for the year 1941-42, if so, why,

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Narrative Report for the year 1942-43, published in March last, gives information only in regard to the number of (i) candidates, and (ii) employees whose physical fitness and vision examinations were carried out, if so, why figures of failures to pass in the same or lower grade of appointment were not included as before, and

(d) whether it is proposed to issue instructions to the North Western Railway to adopt a uniform policy of giving the number of candidates and employees medically examined and the number of failures permanent or otherwise, if not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Yes

(b) The information was omitted from the Annual Report for the year 1941-42, as the whole Report was cut down due to the imperative necessity to economise paper

(c) The reply to the first part is in the affirmative. The inclusion of the information referred to in the second part was not considered essential

(d) No. Because of the reasons mentioned in my reply to part (b) above I may, however, inform the Honourable Member that when the need for economy in paper is over, the question of inclusion of the information now omitted from the Annual Report of the North Western Railway will be considered

SUPPLY OF RATIONS AT CONCESSION RATES TO FAMILY MEMBERS OF RAILWAY EMPLOYEES RESIDING ELSEWHERE.

7. Sardar Sant Singh. (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state whether the concession of cheap rations on Indian Railways is allowed to an employee for his family members if they reside at a place other than the station of the employee's employment? If not, why not?

(b) If the reply to (a) above be in the affirmative, how is the supply arranged?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Discretion is left to the Railway Administrations in this respect, though ordinarily an employee's family must be living with and solely dependent on the employee to qualify for grain shop concessions

(b) By the issue of separate family ration cards

SUPPLY OF ONIONS AND POTATOES AT CHEAP RATES TO NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY EMPLOYEES.

8. Sardar Sant Singh: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state whether the employees on the North Western Railway are being supplied with onions and potatoes at cheap rates? If so, is the supply confined to some selected centres or is it given on all stations on the North Western Railway?

(b) If the supply is confined to some selected centres, why are other stations deprived of the concession? What steps do Government propose to take to make the concession of cheap supplies universal? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Yes—at 19 centres

(b) The supply is being extended to other centres as soon as procurement arrangements can be completed. The latter part does not arise

COLLECTION OF PILGRIMAGE TAX BY RAILWAYS AT CERTAIN STATIONS.

9. **Mr. R. R. Gupta:** Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to lay before the House a statement showing the yearly collection of pilgrimage tax by the Railways in the last three years, in Gola Gokarannath, Soiron, Laharmandighat, Muttra, Benares, Ajodhya and Allahabad, on all the Railway lines operating on these stations?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The information asked for is not readily available and its collection would involve an amount of time and labour that would not be justifiable in war time.

SECTION 42 OF INDIAN RAILWAYS ACT AND DEFENCE OF INDIA RULE 34

10. **Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali:** Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state if it is a fact that since 1939 Section 42 of the Indian Railways Act, 1890, has been made subject to Rule 34 of the Defence of India Act Rules? If not, what is the fact?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: No. I am unable to see any connection between section 42 of the Indian Railways Act, 1890, and rule 34 of the Defence of India Rules.

COMMUNICATION OF ORDERS REGARDING MOVEMENTS OF COMMODITIES TO RAILWAY STAFF

11. **Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali:** Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state if it is a fact that orders under the Defence of India Act Rules issued either by the Central Government or by the Provincial Governments or by a subordinate authority to them regarding movements of commodities by rails are communicated to the Railway Staff at stations through the Railway Administrations? If not, what channel is prescribed for such communications? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Orders issued under Rule 81(2) (a) of the Defence of India Rules affecting the movement or transport of commodities are in the ordinary course communicated direct to Railway staff at stations and not necessarily through the head of the Railway Administration concerned, as the Rule does not specify any particular channel of communication. On the other hand orders under Rule 85A are, in accordance with the specific provision of the Rule to this effect, issued to the heads of the Railway Administration concerned, who convey them to the station staff concerned through the normal channels of established procedure.

QUANTITY OF WHEAT, ETC TRANSPORTED OVER CERTAIN SECTIONS OF RAILWAYS

12. **Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali:** Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state

(a) the quantity of wheat, sugar, gur and other foodstuffs, respectively, transported by rail during the years 1941, 1942, 1943 and to date of 1944, separately, from each station on the Shahdara (Delhi) Saharanpur Light Railway to stations on the East Indian and North Western Railways via Delhi Shahdara and via Saharanpur, respectively,

(b) the quantity of wheat, sugar, gur and other foodstuffs, respectively, transported by rail during the years 1941, 1942, 1943 and to date of 1944, separately, from each station on the section between Delhi and Ambala of the North Western Railway to stations in the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh and in Bengal, respectively, and

(c) the reasons for the decrease or increase, if any, in the traffic of those commodities from those stations during those periods?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The information is not available and its collection will entail an expenditure of time and labour incommensurate with the results to be obtained.

RESTRICTION ON MOVEMENT OF SODA ASH AND SALJI IMPOSED BY REGIONAL CONTROLLER OF PRIORITIES, LAHORE

13. **Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali:** Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state if it is a fact that movement by rail of Soda Ash and Salji

(Fuller's Earth) has been restricted by the Regional Controller of Priorities, Lahore?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: It is a fact that the Regional Controller of Railway Priorities, Lahore, has imposed a distance restriction of 200 miles on Fuller's Earth from all stations on the North Western Railway.

No similar restriction has been placed on movements of Soda Ash.

COMMODITIES RESTRICTED BY CONTROLLERS OF PRIORITIES FOR MOVEMENT BY RAILWAY

14. Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali: Will the Honourable Member for War Transport please lay on the table a statement of commodities restricted by the Controllers of Priorities for movement by rail, together with the justification of their movements by road?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Many of the restrictions imposed are for short periods only depending upon the operating situation, and any list prepared on the basis of present restrictions would be of little value. The preparation of a statement of all restrictions that have been imposed would involve an expenditure of time and labour which I do not consider to be justified.

Restrictions on movement of goods are imposed to eliminate unnecessary and wasteful movements as well as to divert goods to roads, rivers or the sea. Short distance restrictions on movements by rail have been imposed in many cases where such movements can be adequately made by road transport.

ROLLING STOCK OF RAILWAYS

15. Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali: Will the Honourable Member for Railways please lay on the table a statement of the Rolling Stock of each Railway as it stood on the 21st October, 1944, showing *inter alia* —

(i) the number of wagons, carriages and locomotives, separately, in use on that date for War traffic,

(ii) the number of wagons, carriages and locomotives, separately, in use on that date for civil traffic,

(iii) the number of wagons, carriages and locomotives, separately, under repairs on that date, and

(iv) the total number of wagons, carriages and locomotives, separately, belonging to those railways on that date?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The information asked for by the Honourable Member is not readily available and it is not considered that the effort necessary to obtain it will be justified by the results.

PROHIBITION AGAINST PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT'S PRIORITY OVER PUBLIC

16. Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali: Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state if it is a fact that a Provincial Government is prohibited under section 42 of the Indian Railways Act, 1890, from receiving any preference over the general public? If not, what is the fact?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Presumably the Honourable Member is referring to section 42A of the Indian Railways Act, 1890. This section prohibits a railway administration from giving any undue or unreasonable preference to any person or railway administration or to any description of traffic, or subject any person or railway administration or any particular description of traffic to any undue or unreasonable prejudice or disadvantage in any respect whatsoever.

INCOMPETENCY OF PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS TO EXERCISE CONTROL OVER ADMINISTRATION OF FEDERAL RAILWAYS

17. Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali: Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state if it is a fact that a Provincial Government has no control over the working (both transport and commercial) of the staff and the administration of Federal Railways, and they are not permitted to issue any order (general or special) to any or all Federal Railways direct except through the Central Government? If not, what is the fact?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: It is correct that Provincial Governments have no control over the working of the staff and the administration

of Federal Railways and are, therefore, not empowered to issue any orders to such Railways on matters affecting such control

BENEFIT OF DEARNESS ALLOWANCE TO RAILWAY EMPLOYEES IN OLD AND REVISED SCALES OF PAY

18 Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali. Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state if he is aware that the order sanctioning 10 per cent of pay subject to a minimum of the existing scale of dearness allowance is of no benefit to non gazetted staff on the revised (1934) scales of pay and also to staff whose pay is below Rs 40? What is the fact and extent of benefit to an employee of the same class in the old and revised scales separately?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall. The benefit to an employee on the old or revised scales of pay is identical viz 10 per cent of his pay subject to certain minima for those drawing up to and more than Rs 40 a month respectively. I may add that there are many employees on the revised scales of pay in the latter category. The dearness allowance rate for all staff drawing up to Rs 40 a month remains the same as before the order referred to was issued but it must be remembered that they along with others are receiving additional benefits through the Railway Grain Shops.

PROSECUTIONS OF RAILWAY STAFF UNDER SECTIONS 353 AND 332, I P C BY RAILWAY POLICE, AMBALA

19 Mr Muhammad Azhar Ali. Will the Honourable Member for Railways please lay a statement of the staff prosecuted by the Government Railway Police Ambala on the North Western Railway under Sections 353 and 332 of the Indian Penal Code during 1944 to date and state *inter alia* the result of the departmental enquiries held before the permission to arrest those staff was given by the Divisional Superintendent Delhi Division North Western Railway? If no enquiries were conducted what are the reasons therefor?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall. So far as information is readily available there has been only one recent case which took place in August 1944 in which a Railway employee was arrested by the Government Railway Police Ambala. He was immediately released on bail. No permission was asked for from the Divisional Superintendent Delhi Division North Western Railway and no enquiry was made by him.

STATEMENTS LAID ON THE TABLE

Information promised in reply to Starred Question No 48 asked by Mr N M Joshi on the 9th November 1943

INDIAN SEAMEN ENGAGED ON THE UNITED KINGDOM REGISTERED SHIPS ETC

Part (a) Number of Indian seamen engaged on U K registered ships plying on*

(i) the coastal trade of India	6 004
(ii) the overseas trade of India	1 53 607

Part (b) Number of Indian seamen engaged on ships of other members of the United Nations

Nationality of ships	Number of Indian seamen
1 Norwegian	2 866
2 Dutch	2 225
3 Danish	46
4 Russian	11
5 Panamanian	466
6 Greek	179
7 Yugoslav	22
8 American	3
9 French	6
10 Hong Kong	18
11 Egyptian	10
12 Shanghai	4
13 Polish	259
Total	6,115

Part (c) Number of Indian seamen engaged on ships on the Indian register

N B — The figures represent the total number of engagements of Indian seamen, irrespective of the fact that the same seamen may have been engaged more than once	13,750
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Information promised in reply to Unstarred Question No 4, asked by Mr K C Neogy, on the 9th November, 1943

SUPPLY OF FOODGRAINS TO EMPLOYEES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRIES AND CIVIL SUPPLIES IN BENGAL AT CONCESSION RATES

(a), (b) and (c) The Honourable Member is referred to the reply given on the 5th November, 1943, to unstarred question No 6, addressed to the Honourable the Food Member.

Information promised in reply to Unstarred Question No 28 asked by Mr. Muhammad Ashar Ali, on the 12th November, 1943

RULES FOR OCCUPATION OF RAILWAY QUARTERS AND BUNGALOWS BY SUBORDINATE STAFF ON OUDH AND TIRHUT RAILWAY

The staff are governed by State Railway Rules which require that rent should be so assessed that there is a return of not less than 4 per cent of the capital cost of buildings excluding the cost of land. Reassessment of rent under the rules however, required time but is expected to be completed before the end of 1944. Rent is in the meantime, recovered as previously assessed under the Companies' rules on a basis of $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent of the capital cost of buildings and 11 per cent on the cost of internal electric wiring and electric fittings.

Information promised in reply to part (a) of Starred Question No 182, asked by Sardar Mangal Singh, on the 13th November, 1943

DEATHS IN BENGAL

Year	No of deaths in the months of		
	August	September	October
1943	151,126	171,755	226,574

Information promised in reply to parts (d), (e) and (f) of Starred Question No. 258, asked by Mr K C Neogy, on the 17th November, 1943

OPERATIONS OF THE "GROW MORE FOOD" CAMPAIGN

(d) An enquiry was made from the Government of Bengal who have intimated that in certain areas some cultivators disposed of their cattle and in some cases their agricultural implements for their maintenance. With a view to rehabilitating the cultivators, the Provincial Government have advanced loans to enable them to purchase cattle and are making arrangements with the neighbouring provinces for facilities for the import of cattle to Bengal. The Provincial Government have also under consideration a scheme for the supply of iron and steel necessary for manufacturing and supplying agricultural implements to the Agriculturists.

(e) and (f) Yes. As a result of the distress some cultivators sold their lands to maintain themselves and their families. The transactions took place mainly in 1943. Full details are not available. The Provincial Government propose to undertake an enquiry to get an idea of the extent such transfers in the areas most affected. They have promulgated an Ordinance to enable the transferees to get back their lands and are undertaking legislation in the matter.

Information promised in reply to parts (d) and (e) of Starred Question No. 1, asked by Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta, on the 7th February, 1944

QUININE POSITION

Imports of quinine salts into British India

1942-43	40,298 lbs
1943-44 (first seven months)	1,604 lbs
Later information not available	

Information promised in reply to part (a) of Starred Question No 18, asked by Mr K C Neogy, on the 7th February, 1944

STARVATION DEATHS IN BENGAL

(a) A comparative statement giving districtwise figures of total mortality during the year 1943 and the average for five years ending 1942, is placed on the table of the house. The excess in the second half of 1943, can be attributed to the abnormal conditions prevailing at that time.

Statement showing Total deaths in the districts of Bengal during the year 1943 (January—June and July—December) as compared with the corresponding average for five years (1938-42)

	January—June			July—December		
	Average (1938-42)	1943	Difference	Average (1938-42)	1943	Difference
1 Burdwan	18,619	15,558	-3,061	20,649	31,909	+11,260
2 Birbhum	12,216	10,060	-2,156	13,003	30,422	+17,426
3 Bankura	12,669	10,830	-1,839	14,205	29,340	+15,135
4 Midnapur	27,511	27,128	-383	29,345	62,738	+33,393
5 Hooghly	11,285	9,010	-2,275	12,544	18,485	+5,941
6 Howrah	10,369	10,197	-172	9,851	24,477	+14,626
7 24-Parganas	24,479	23,297	-1,182	25,021	63,883	+38,862
8 Calcutta	16,716	13,420	-3,296	15,684	38,848	+23,164
9 Nadia	19,242	19,386	+144	23,341	58,293	+34,952
10 Murshidabad	15,123	14,816	-307	17,992	50,257	+32,265
11 Jessore	19,651	18,251	-1,400	23,455	32,167	+8,682
12 Khulna	14,066	17,573	+3,507	18,052	26,153	+8,101
13 Rajshahi	18,012	18,994	+982	20,042	35,747	+15,705
14 Dinajpur	20,076	18,264	-1,812	18,947	23,251	+4,314
15 Jalpaiguri	13,491	14,230	+739	15,384	24,062	+8,678
16 Darjeeling	5,250	4,961	-289	5,265	6,297	+1,032
17 Rangpur	31,530	35,881	+4,351	40,267	75,687	+35,420
18 Bogra	10,979	11,162	+184	14,034	22,230	+8,205
19 Pabna	19,587	16,488	-3,109	21,739	37,171	+15,432
20 Malda	8,207	4,928	-3,279	7,520	11,239	+3,719
21 Dacca	37,705	35,307	-2,398	41,226	113,616	+72,390
22 Mymensingh	54,870	59,587	+4,717	68,311	120,893	+52,582
23 Faridpur	30,434	26,794	-3,640	35,824	73,328	+37,504
24 Bakarganj	33,597	36,930	+3,333	34,145	62,290	+28,145
25 Chittagong	23,687	32,759	+9,072	23,528	71,567	+48,039
26 Noakhali	17,421	23,793	+6,372	19,552	48,637	+29,085
27 Tippera	32,048	39,821	+7,773	37,097	111,340	+74,243
Total	558,850	569,425	+10,575	626,053	1,304,323	+678,270

Information promised in reply to Unstarred Question No 38, asked by Mr Lalchand Navalrai, on the 9th February, 1944

OVERSEAS BUSINESS SECURED BY NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY THROUGH CERTAIN AGENCIES

(a) The value of overseas business secured by the North Western Railway through the under noted Agencies during 1942-43 is indicated against each—

(i) Messrs Thomas Cook & Sons (8 offices)	Rs 2,62,907
(ii) Messrs Cox & Kings (2 offices)	Rs 30,990
(iii) Messrs Venatmal Bassamral & Brothers (2 offices)	Rs 1,558

Records for 1940-41 and 1941-42 have since been destroyed and it is, therefore, not possible to give the required information for these years.

(b) and (c) Investigations have revealed that certain Tourist Agencies have been charging the higher rate of commission on traffic, which was not genuine overseas traffic, and the matter has been taken up with them. Steps are also being taken to revise the instructions on the subject to prevent a recurrence.

Information promised in reply to Mr Hooseenbhai A Laljee's Supplementary Question to Starred Question No 79, asked by Mr K C Neogy, on the 10th February, 1944

STOCKS RELEASED FROM ARMY RESERVES FOR CIVILIANS IN BENGAL

In 1942, it was arranged to import certain quantities of wheat from Australia specifically for the Defence Services. That has now been changed and imports are arranged on the basis of the all India supply position which takes account of both Civil and Defence demands.

Information promised in reply to supplementaries to Starred Question No 115, asked by Sardar Mangal Singh, on the 16th February, 1944

PRICES AT WHICH WHEAT IS PURCHASED IN THE PUNJAB AND SOLD IN BENGAL

Action taken on the report of the Braund-Cooke Committee has been outlined in a resolution published in the *Gazette of India*, dated the 28th July, 1944. A copy of the resolution is placed on the table of the House.

STATEMENTS LAID ON THE TABLE

Government of India, Department of Food, Resolution No F 10 (1) Secy /43, New Delhi, the 26th July, 1944

A Committee of Inquiry consisting of (1) the Honourable Mr Justice H B L Braund, Bar at Law, Regional Commissioner (Food) Eastern Region, and (2) Mr A L Cooke, Chief Cost Accounts Officer, Supply Finance Department, was appointed by the Government of India by their Resolution No F 10 (1) Secy /43, of the 2nd November, 1943, with the following terms of reference —

(I) To enquire —

(a) Whether the profit accruing to the flour mills from the production and sale at the ex mill statutory prices of wheat products made from wheat purchased from the Government of Bengal is reasonable, having regard to such variations in output and other conditions as may from time to time arise and if not, what adjustment ought to be made so as to secure a reasonable rate of profit in the interest of the Public and all parties concerned

(b) Whether the profit accruing to retailers in the sale at the statutory retail prices of wheat products purchased from the mills is reasonable

(II) To make recommendations as to the proportions in which atta, flour and bran should be produced by the mills in Calcutta out of wheat bought from Government, and the respective prices at which they should be sold to the public. The Committee submitted its report on the 30th December, 1943, and made the following recommendations —

(i) For a period of 12 months from the 1st January, 1944, the Bengal Government should [subject to (ii) below] sell wheat to its millers at Rs 10-7-0 a maund

(ii) The sale price recommended should be reviewed again at the expiration of three or six months from January, 1944, in order that any adjustments necessary might be made, having regard both to the experience of the intervening period and to any further profits or losses on the part of the Bengal Government prior to the 1st of January, 1944, which might then be assessable

(iii) A grinding charge of 0 80 a maund should be allowed. On the assumption of 80 per cent employment of full milling capacity, this should yield a profit return to the Mills of 0 20 a maund. In addition, the millers should be allowed an additional Rs 7 40 per 100 maunds for contingencies and by way of a further profit. On this basis the net yield to the mills, subject to the Managing Agent's commission and taxation, should be on the basis of approximately a net 10 per cent upon the capital estimated to be employed by them in their milling operations

(iv) The profits previously allowed to retailers of Rs 2 a maund were excessive. A uniform allowance for both flour and atta to retailers of Re 1 a maund to cover provision of paper bags and all other costs charges and expenses, including any commission payable to the Calcutta Flour Dealers Association should be sufficient

(v) The following proportion of extraction for each 100 maunds of wheat supplied to mills should be adopted

- (a) Flour—20 maunds
- (b) Atta—69 maunds
- (c) Bran—10 maunds

The selling price of wheat of Rs 10 70 a maund recommended by the Committee took into account a sum of 109 lakh of rupees which the Committee on the material before it considered to be the minimum net surplus, at the date of the Committee's report, in the hands of the Bengal Government as a result of its past transactions in wheat, this sum being calculated as follows —

	Rs in lakhs
(a) Profit as at 31st August 1943 on wheat already announced by the Bengal Government	33 44
(b) Profit on wheat products up to 31st August 1943 already announced by the Bengal Government	6 32
(c) Credit of As 11 per md on 11 73 lakhs mds Punjab wheat supplied under the 'Pool Scheme'	8 06
(d) Profit on 25,856 tons Australian Wheat imported at Rs 7-5-0 per maund and sold at Rs 12-12-0 per maund	38 26
(e) Profit on 21,144 tons Australian Wheat imported at Rs 7-5-0 per maund which will be sold at Rs 10-7-0 per maund	18 00
(f) Profit on 7,901 tons Flour imported at Rs 8-4-0 and sold at Rs 19 per maund, less cost of freight to districts of Bengal at annas 12 per maund	21 30
(g) Profit on Wheat Products received from other provinces from 1st September 1943 to 20th November 1943	10 00
(h) Profit on wheat products received from other provinces in December	3 75
Total Profit	139 13
(i) Loss on 23,386 tons U. P. Wheat Purchased at Rs. 16-10-0 per maund and sold at Rs. 12-12-0 per maund	24 42
Less Handling charges and General expenses	5 71
Nett Surplus	109 00

[1st Nov. 1944]

According to the Committee this estimated net surplus arose mainly because, owing to the multiplicity of the sources from which imports of wheat were received and the circumstance that the price of the various imports made from different sources often remained undetermined until long after the dates of the imports, it was always a matter of difficulty for the Bengal Government to arrive at a true average selling price for its aggregate imports of wheat.

3 The Committee further reported that their examination of the figures which were freely placed at their disposal by some of the principal milling concerns in Calcutta for the period January to December, 1943, inclusive indicated that profits to the millers during this period had been abnormally high. The Committee made it clear that their finding in this respect was not in any way disputed by the millers and as recorded in the succeeding paragraph, adjustments are being made with their consent.

4 The Government of Bengal who were asked for their views on the recommendations of the Committee have stated that, although they do not accept in their entirety the data on which the Committee's recommendations are based, they are in general agreement with these recommendations and have already implemented all of them. With reference to the Committee's observations regarding the profits made by the mills in 1943, the Government of Bengal have informed the Government of India that the three large groups of mills, who were approached by them, have agreed to a refund of 0.40 per maund on the total quantity of wheat actually milled between the 1st July and 31st December, 1943. The smaller mills are also being approached and the Government of Bengal propose to hold the amount recovered in deposit and to take it into account in adjusting future prices.

5. The Government of India have examined the Committee's report and accept its recommendations, which have already been put into effect by the Government of Bengal. The Government of India also wish to express their thanks to the members of the Committee for their labours in carrying out the enquiry entrusted to them and the commendable promptitude with which their report was submitted.

Ordered that the Resolution be published in the *Gazette of India* for general information.

R. H. HUTCHINGS

Secretary to the Government of India

Information promised in reply to Starred Question No 137, asked by Mr K C Neogy, on the 21st February, 1944

AMERICAN ORDER FOR HESSIAN OF JUNE, 1943

Prices of Jute raw and Jute Manufacture at Calcutta at the end of each month

	Mill Quality Firsts per 400 lbs bale (Jute raw)	as per A. M. Mair & Co's quotation list	Jute Manufactures		as per Ferman & Hynd's quotation list
			40"/8 Oz per 100 yds	B Twills per 100 bags	
1943—					
June		Rs A P	Rs A P	Rs A P	
July		80 0 0	80 2 0	65 5 0	
August		76 0 0	80 6 0	64 0 0	
September		80 0 0	80 14 0	65 5 0	
October		75 0 0	81 2 0	67 0 0	
November		79 0 0	81 10 0	67 12 0	
December		76 0 0	81 2 0	66 8 0	
1944—					
January		84 0 0	81 8 0	67 0 0	
February		84 0 0	81 10 0	67 12 0	
March		86 0 0	81 10 0	67 12 0	
April		84 0 0	82 2 0	66 12 0	
May		86 0 0	82 2 0	66 12 0	

Statement showing prices of certain food grains in some of the important Jute growing areas in 'Bengal, Month' by Month, (Quotations Relate to the latest date in the month, for which quotations are available)
(Prices per standard maund)

STATEMENTS LAID ON THE TABLE																																					
Months	HHH (Dhaka)					Bager					Dacca					Mymensingh					Comilla (Tippens)																
	Rice		Wheat		Mustard Seed	Rice		Wheat		Mustard Seed	Rice		Wheat		Mustard Seed	Rice		Wheat		Mustard Seed	Rice		Wheat		Mustard Seed	Rice		Wheat									
	1	2	3	4		1	2	3	4		1	2	3	4		1	2	3	4		1	2	3	4		1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4				
1912— July	20 0	21 0	21 4	16 0	22 0	24 8*	22 0	22 0	21 12	19 8	22 0	22 0	22 0	22 0	22 0	22 0	22 0	22 0	22 0	22 0	22 0	22 0	22 0	22 0	22 0	22 0	22 0	22 0	22 0	22 0	22 0	22 0	22 0	22 0	22 0	22 0	22 0
August	23 0	20 0	21 4	16 0	20 0	21 12	20 7	22 0	22 0	22 0	22 0	22 0	22 0	22 0	22 0	22 0	22 0	22 0	22 0	22 0	22 0	22 0	22 0	22 0	22 0	22 0	22 0	22 0	22 0	22 0	22 0	22 0	22 0	22 0	22 0	22 0	22 0
September	24 0	20 0	21 4	20 0	20 0	20 0*	29 0	17 12	23 0	22 3*	22 0	22 0	22 0	22 0	22 0	22 0	22 0	22 0	22 0	22 0	22 0	22 0	22 0	22 0	22 0	22 0	22 0	22 0	22 0	22 0	22 0	22 0	22 0	22 0	22 0	22 0	22 0
October	22 0*	20 0	21 4	20 0	20 0	20 0*	29 0	17 15	23 0	22 3*	22 0	22 0	22 0	22 0	22 0	22 0	22 0	22 0	22 0	22 0	22 0	22 0	22 0	22 0	22 0	22 0	22 0	22 0	22 0	22 0	22 0	22 0	22 0	22 0	22 0	22 0	22 0
November	20 0*	22 0	20 0	20 0	20 0	20 0*	29 0	16 8	20 0	20 10*	22 0	22 0	22 0	22 0	22 0	22 0	22 0	22 0	22 0	22 0	22 0	22 0	22 0	22 0	22 0	22 0	22 0	22 0	22 0	22 0	22 0	22 0	22 0	22 0	22 0	22 0	22 0
December	22 0	22 0	22 0	22 0	22 0	22 0	22 0	22 0	22 0	22 0	22 0	22 0	22 0	22 0	22 0	22 0	22 0	22 0	22 0	22 0	22 0	22 0	22 0	22 0	22 0	22 0	22 0	22 0	22 0	22 0	22 0	22 0	22 0	22 0	22 0	22 0	22 0
1914— January	12 8	20 0	22 0	17 0	14 0*	NO REPORT	19 0	12 0	12 8	19 0	13 13*	25 0	11 8	18 0	18 0*	35 0	11 12	12 0	12 0	12 0	12 0	12 0	12 0	12 0	12 0	12 0	12 0	12 0	12 0	12 0	12 0	12 0	12 0	12 0	12 0	12 0	12 0
February	12 12	14 0	12 0	19 0	13 2*	12 0	17 0	20 0	15 0	19 0	15 3*	25 0	11 8	18 0	17 0	18 0	11 12	24 0	12 0	12 0	12 0	12 0	12 0	12 0	12 0	12 0	12 0	12 0	12 0	12 0	12 0	12 0	12 0	12 0	12 0	12 0	
March	12 0	14 4	12 0	20 0	13 3*	12 0	17 0	18 0	11 8	19 0	12 13*	25 0	11 8	18 0	17 0	18 0	11 12	24 0	12 0	12 0	12 0	12 0	12 0	12 0	12 0	12 0	12 0	12 0	12 0	12 0	12 0	12 0	12 0	12 0	12 0	12 0	
April	11 5	14 4	11 8	20 0	12 4	22 0	19 0	18 0	11 8	18 0	15 3*	25 0	11 8	18 0	17 0	18 0	11 12	24 0	12 0	12 0	12 0	12 0	12 0	12 0	12 0	12 0	12 0	12 0	12 0	12 0	12 0	12 0	12 0	12 0	12 0	12 0	
May	12 0	14 4	12 0	21 0	12 8	20 8	19 0	18 0	11 8	18 0	15 3*	25 0	11 8	18 0	17 0	18 0	11 12	24 0	12 0	12 0	12 0	12 0	12 0	12 0	12 0	12 0	12 0	12 0	12 0	12 0	12 0	12 0	12 0	12 0	12 0	12 0	

(*) - Gross quality
(*) - Fine quality
(*) - Average price of medium variety of rice
+ Week ending 6th October 1943
+ Week ending 12th November 1943
+ Week ending 20th February 1944
+ Week ending 6th November 1943

STATEMENTS LAID ON THE TABLE

Information promised in reply to Starred Questions Nos 150, 151 and 152 asked by Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali, on the 21st February, 1944

RECRUITMENT OF LOWEST GRADE READERS IN GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS

- No 150 (a) Yes
 (b) Yes A statement is placed on the table
 (c) A Calcutta Press
 (i) Nil
 (ii) Nil
 (iii) Nil
 B New Delhi Press
 (i) 67
 (ii) Nil
 (iii) Nil
 C Simla Press
 (i) 5
 (ii) 3
 (iii) Nil

Statement showing the n

	Post held at the time they qualified	Whether permanent officiating or temporary
	successful as appeared in the test)	
Mr Z A. Qureshi	Copyholder	Permanent
Mr Sukhdev Singh		Officiating
Mr R C Lawrence		Permanent
Mr K B Lal		Permanent
Mr L C Jain		Permanent
Mr Thakur Singh		Permanent
Mr Rihal		
Mr Keshri Perahad		
Mr B K Dey		Temporary
Mr V J Frederick		Temporary
Mr S S Joshi		Officiating
Mr Abdul Qadeer		Officiating
Bandu		
three	ancies of readers in the Government of India Press, Simla, of a	
	part C (ii) of question No 150	
	establishment who qualified at the	
	copyholders who had qualified	

The two copyholder
 permanent posts of 1
 1935, did not of

a copyholder
 d in the 19
 the assumption
 advantage of me

No 152—The appointment of two copyholder
 suitable action taken under the rules

Information promised in reply to Unstarred Questions Nos 51, 52, 54 and 55, asked by Mr Ananga Mohan Das, on the 21st February, 1944

AUTHORITY RESPONSIBLE FOR SANITATION OF LAND BETWEEN RAILWAY BRIDGE, SHAHDARA, AND GRAND TRUNK ROAD

No 51—The land in question is private property and the owners are responsible for its sanitation

POSTPONEMENT OF ELECTIONS TO SHAHDARA AND NORTH WEST AREA COMMITTEE.

No. 52—The preparation of the electoral roll is , and the dates for the election will be fixed shortly

IRREGULARITIES REPORTED UNDER PAYMENT OF WAGES ACT AGAINST EAST INDIAN RAILWAY

No 54—(a) The nature of irregularities reported by the Inspector under the payment of Wages Act 1936, against East Indian Railway since 1938, is indicated below—

(1) Non-display of the List of Acts and Omissions in modern Indian languages mostly— [Rule 12 of the Payment of Wages (Federal Railways) Rules, 1936]

- (2) Non display of the notices showing the dates of payments—[Rule 8 of the P W (Federal Railways) Rules, 1938]
- (3) Delay in the payment of wages (allowances, increments and leave salary)—[Section 5(1) of the P W Act, 1936]
- (4) Delay in the payment of wages on termination of service—[Section 5(2) of the P W Act, 1936]
- (5) Failure to maintain the Registers of fines and of deductions for Damage or Loss in the prescribed forms—[Rule 3(1) and 4 of P W (F R) Rules]
- (6) Failure to enter the relevant clauses of subsection 2 of section 7 of the Act against certain items of deductions—[Rule 5(b) of the P W (F R) Rules, 1938]
- (7) Recovery of fines (a) without giving an opportunity to show cause or (b) after the expiry of 60 days from the date of the act or omission,—[Section 8(3) and (6) of the P W Act, 1936]
- (8) Deductions in contravention of Section
- All these irregularities were brought to the notice of rectified them and took steps to avoid their recurrence
- (b) The same irregularities were not repeated though nature were detected in subsequent years.

NON-PAYMENT OF WAGES TO WORKERS BY LOADING CONTRACTOR AT DELHI-SHAHD.

No 55—(a) (b) No complaint has so far been received for non payment of wages of employees engaged by the ex loading-and unloading contractor, Ch Raghunath Singh and Brove, on Delhi Shahdara Railway Station on the North Western Railway

(c) to (e) Do not arise

Information promised in reply to Starred Questions Nos 187 and 188 asked by Mr Ananga Mohan Das, on the 23rd February, 1944

LAND ACQUIRED BY MILITARY IN ASSAM FOR AERODROMES, ETC

No 187—(a), (b) and (c) It is regretted that this information cannot be given in the interests of security

(d) Yes

(e) Yes, but many of them prefer to work on military projects in their own neighbourhood

LAND ACQUIRED BY MILITARY IN BENGAL FOR AERODROMES, ETC

No 188 (a), (b) and (c) It is regretted that this information cannot be given in the interests of security

(d) and (e) People evicted were paid compensation liberally, and the owners of huts were paid replacement costs of huts in addition to the cost of temporary shelters

(f) The Government of India are informed by the Provincial Government that it was not correct to say that an acute state of famine still prevailed in February 1944. There has been no indiscriminate acquisition of agricultural lands. Only lands actually required for defence purposes have been acquired and all possible steps have been taken to avoid hardship to the people

Information promised in reply to part (b) of Starred Question No 197 asked by Mr Lalchand Navolrai on the 24th February, 1944

DISCONTINUANCE OF TRAVELLING VAN PORTERS IN KARACHI DIVISION, NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

(b) The following statement shows the number of known thefts committed by (i) railway van porters and (ii) contractors' labour on Road V in trains, on the Karachi Division, during the years 1941, 1942 and 1943—

Year	Thefts committed by Railway van porters		Thefts committed by contractors' labour	
	Number of thefts	Number of persons involved	Number of thefts	Number of persons involved
1941	1	1		
1942	2	7	5	16
1943			4	8

Note—In the reply given to part (c) of the question in the Assembly on the 24th February 1944, it was through inadvertence, stated that 7 Railway van porters had been challenged for thefts during 1943. The correct position is that 7 other railway staff had been so challenged, viz, 1 Guard, 2 Van Stores, 2 Watchmen, 1 Shunting Porter and 1 Check Porter

Information promised in reply to Starred Question No 211, asked by Mr Ananga Mohan Das on the 24th February, 1944

APPRENTICE MECHANICS RECRUITED COMMUNITY-WISE IN BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY

- (a) 22, 8 Hindus of whom one is a non-Bengali, 6 Muslims and 8 Anglo Indians.
 (b) No, the passing of the examination conducted by the Board of Apprenticeship on any one
 is not lower than those prescribed by Government

Information promised in reply to part (d) of Unstarred Question No: 68 asked by Mr N M Joshi, on the 24th February, 1944

NON-PAYMENT OF EXTRA DUTY ALLOWANCE TO BOMBAY CIRCLE RAILWAY MAIL SERVICE STAFF.

- (d) In certain R. M. S. Divisions of six postal circles, other than Bombay, extra duty allowance was wrongly paid to R. M. S. officials for the period of rest curtailed as a result of their transfer from one set to another during the period July 1941 to July 1942

Information promised in reply to Unstarred Question No 74, asked by Mr Kailash Bihari Lall on the 25th February, 1944

LAND REQUISITIONED BY GOVERNMENT NEAR SHAHDARA RAILWAY STATION

- (a) The land was requisitioned under the Chief Commissioner's notification No F 14 (121)/43-L S G, dated the 20th July 1943, published in Part II A of the Gazette of India dated the 24th July 1943
 (b) The land measures 2974 square yards and is situated along both sides of the Shahdara approach road bounded by Government land on the one side and private land on the other

Information promised in reply to Starred Question No 268 asked by Mr H M Abdullah on the 28th February, 1944

FOOD INSPECTORS, ETC, ON NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

- (a) to (e) The attached statements give the required information. It is regretted that the number of Food Inspectors was given as 5, whereas it is 6

No. of posts of inferior staff sanctioned in connection with the food organisation in Divisions

Office	Strength		Community				Filled by		Remarks
	Total	Actuals	Hindu	Muslim	Sikh	Indian Christian	Promotion	Direct recruitment	
Supdt Mechanical Work shops	3	3		3				3	
D S Office Rawalpindi	55	55	18	35	2			55	
D S Office Ferozepore	43	43	14	26	3		1	42	
D S Office, Lahore	90	90	27	55	8		1	89	
D S Office, Delhi	107	81	67	13		1		81	26 vacancies
D S Office, Karachi	134	109	39	70				109	25 vacancies
D S Office Multan	67	67	14	44	9			67	
Accounts Offices	3	3	3				1	2	
District Controller of Stores Moghalpura	172	172	66	99	7		22	150	
D S Office, Quetta	38	38	11	25	1	1		38	
Headquarters Office	5	5	1	3	1			5	
Total	717	666	260	373	31	2	25	641	51 vacancies

Information promised in reply to Starred Question No 354 asked by Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon on the 13th March 1914

FOOD INSPECTORS ETC APPOINTED IN KARACHI AND MULTAN DIVISIONS

It is regretted that it was wrongly stated that no Food Inspector has been appointed on the Karachi Division. There is one Food Inspector on that Division and one on the Multan Division. One Assistant Food Inspector is also appointed on each of the Karachi and Multan Divisions. The Food Inspector on the Multan Division is a Sikh the other Food Inspector and both the Assistant Food Inspectors are Hindus.

Information promised in reply to Starred Questions Nos 357 358 359 and 360 asked by Mr Muhammad Nauman on the 13th March 1944

MUSLIM APPLICANTS FOR POSTS IN THE STORES DEPARTMENT, BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY

No 357—(a) 429, one as Clerk grade 65—85 2 as Head Clerk and Accountant grade 100—120 1 as Warlike-per grade 65 120 6 as Clerks grade 30—60

(1) Applicants who did not fulfil the conditions specified in the advertisement were rejected. Out of 57 Muslims called for interview only 24 presented themselves.

(2) No but the General Manager is competent to act as he did.

MUSLIM APPLICANTS FOR POSTS IN THE STORES DEPARTMENT, BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY

No 358—(a) Government are informed that 100 Muslims obtained 47 per cent of the direct recruitment made to posts in the Stores Department in 1943-44 no deficiencies exist.

(1) Does not arise in view of the reply to part (a)

STAFF APPOINTED IN THE STORES DEPARTMENT OF BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY IN THE SCALE OF Rs 30—34—45—50—60

No 359—3 Hindus

PROBATIONARY ASSISTANT STATION MASTERS AND SIGNALLERS APPOINTED ON BENGAL
AND ASSAM RAILWAY

No 360

Category	Community	Total No appointed without advertisement		No appointed relaxing the age bar		No appointed relaxing the educational qualifications	
		1942 43	1943-44	1942 43	1943 44	1942 43	1943 44
Probationer Assistant Station Masters	Hindus	108	75	2*			1*
	Muslims	16	3				
Signallers	Hindus	50	34	1*			4*
	Muslims	5	2	1*			

* Figures in column 3 includes those in columns 4 & 5

Information promised in reply to Starred Questions Nos 361 362 364 and 365 asked by Maulvi Muhammad Abd ul Ghani on the 13th March 1944

PROMOTIONS TO CLERICAL GRADE IN THE OFFICE OF CHIEF MECHANICAL ENGINEER BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY

No 361 (a) Yes

(b) Four and one respectively

CERTAIN CLERICAL VACANCIES FILLED IN THE CHIEF MECHANICAL ENGINEER'S
OFFICE BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY

No 362 (a) Government are informed that the facts are not as stated

(b) The number of vacancies which arose are —

Year	Section	No of vacancies
1942 43	General Indent	3
		1
1943 44		4
	Budget	2
	Rolling Stock	2
	Damage	1
	Emergency	1
	Indent	3
	Total	9

The reply to the second part is nil

VACANCIES FILLED IN THE LOWER GAZETTED SERVICE ON BENGAL AND ASSAM
RAILWAY

No 364 (a)

Year	No of vacancies in Lower Gazetted Service including temporary posts created	Filled by persons of the following communities				
		Hindu	Muslim	Sikh	European	Anglo Indian
1942 43	30	16	3	1	1	7
1943 44	38	19	4		3	1
1943 44	14	11				1

(b) No

VACANCIES IN INTERMEDIATE GRADES IN THE STORES DEPARTMENT, BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY.

No 365			
1942-43	{ Vacancies	.	38
	{ Posts created	.	25
1943-44	{ Vacancies	.	28
	{ Posts created	.	83

Information promised in reply to Starred Questions Nos. 366, 367 and 368 asked by Shaikh Rafiuddin Ahmad Siddiquee, on 13th March, 1944

CLERKS SELECTED FOR CERTAIN HIGHER POSTS SANCTIONED BY THE GENERAL MANAGER, EAST INDIAN RAILWAY

No 366 (a) and (b) Yes

(c) No, promotions are made on the basis of seniority and suitability

(d) Yes, because communal quotas do not apply in promotion

CLERKS SELECTED FOR CERTAIN HIGHER POSTS SANCTIONED BY THE GENERAL MANAGER, EAST INDIAN RAILWAY

No 367 (a) Government are informed that the facts are not as stated

(b) No replies are usually given to unsuccessful applicants, as they are aware of the result when the appointments are made

CLERKS SELECTED FOR CERTAIN HIGHER POSTS SANCTIONED BY THE GENERAL MANAGER, EAST INDIAN RAILWAY

No 368 (a) Government are informed that the General Manager did not hold any particular Clerks as being responsible for the irregularities which occurred

(b) Does not arise

(c) No

Information promised in reply to Starred Questions Nos. 370, 371, 372, 373 and 374 asked by Mr Muhammad Hussain Choudhury on the 13th March, 1944

BIAS AGAINST MUSLIM CANDIDATES FOR POSTS OF OFFICE SUPERINTENDENTS, HOWRAH DIVISION, EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

No 370 Yes

BIAS AGAINST MUSLIM CANDIDATES FOR POSTS OF OFFICE SUPERINTENDENTS, HOWRAH DIVISION, EAST INDIAN RAILWAY

No 371 (a) Government are informed that only one Muslim employee applied for the post and the Executive Officer merely intimated that his name might be put forward to the Divisional Superintendent

(b) Yes

(c) Does not arise

BIAS AGAINST MUSLIM CANDIDATES FOR POSTS OF OFFICE SUPERINTENDENTS, HOWRAH DIVISION, EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

No 372 Government are satisfied that the case concerned was dealt with in a proper manner

BIAS AGAINST MUSLIM CANDIDATES FOR POSTS OF OFFICE SUPERINTENDENTS, HOWRAH DIVISION, EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

No 373 Government are informed that there are no unauthorized entries in the Service History of the employee concerned

NON-EMPLOYMENT OF MUSLIMS IN CERTAIN POSTS IN THE ESTABLISHMENT OFFICE OF HOWRAH DIVISION, EAST INDIAN RAILWAY

No 374 (a) Government are informed that the facts are not as stated

(b) Two as far as can be ascertained

(c) Muslim graduates who had passed the Leave Rules Examination were available

Information promised in reply to Starred Question No 880 asked by Mr H M Abdullah on the 18th March 1944

APPOINTMENT OF RAILWAY WATCH AND WARD SUB INSPECTOR DELHI

- (a) Yes
 (b) The reply to the first part is in the affirmative as regards the second part although it was the turn for the appointment of a Muslim Head Watchman Government are unable to state whether the particular person referred to would have been chosen
 (c) Government understand that the Railway is already considering this aspect

Information promised in reply to Sardar Sant Singh's Supplementary Question to Starred Question No 430 asked by Mr Lalchand Navalrai on the 15th March 1944

DISSATISFACTION OVER REQUISITIONING OF PRIVATE HOUSES

No house in this town has been specifically requisitioned for the employees of an Indian State

2 Two small previous requisitioned houses have however been handed over to two Rulers in exchange for their own much larger ones while they have very generously placed rent free at the disposal of the Government of India Staff Officers of Rulers have occasionally been housed previously on Government accommodation when it was necessary for them to be in Delhi with the Ruler's Rites for a meeting of the Chamber of Princes

3 Hon'ble Members are doubtless aware that several Rulers have generously placed their own palaces in Delhi at the disposal of the Government of India and it is but proper that Government should endeavour to provide them if possible with alternative accommodation or where necessary

Information promised in reply to Starred Question No 433 asked by Sardar Sant Singh on the 15th March 1944

GOVERNMENT COUNSEL AT COURTS MARTIAL

Of 43 officers serving in the Judge Advocate General's Department in India 8 are regular officers who have specialized for many years in military law but hold no civil legal qualifications or university law degrees

Of the remaining 35 11 are barristers and 24 are solicitors Of these 16 hold university law degrees as follows —

Law Degrees	Barristers	Solicitors
M A LL B (Cambridge)		2
M A LL B (Glasgow)		2
B A LL B (Cambridge)	1	2
B C L (Oxon)		1
B A (Law) (Oxon)	1	2
B A (Law) (Glasgow)		1
B A (Law) (Dublin)	1	
LL B (London)	1	1

The remaining 8 officers out of the 51 mentioned in the main answer are serving abroad No details regarding their qualifications are readily available

Information promised in reply to parts (b) and (c) of Starred Question No 460 asked by Mr Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya on the 18th March 1944

CONTROLLER OF COAL ACTING AS PURCHASING AGENT FOR INDUSTRIES

(b) In order to make an equitable distribution of coal despatched in full rakes and half rakes Coal Trade Associations (which include representatives of middlemen) were asked to draw up programmes of standard rakes spread over a number of collieries situated in the same pilot section These programmes were utilised by the Controller of Coal Distribution to give immediate assistance to industrial centres such as Ahmedabad Baroda and Sholapur These arrangements were made with the full approval of the coal trade and consumers and were not intended to dislocate normal trade channels The second part of the question does not arise

(c) Yes This action was taken at the request of the Ahmedabad Millowners Association and with the approval of Government

Information promised in reply to parts (d) and (e) of Starred Question No 464, asked by Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani on the 18th March 1944

EXPANSION OF THE METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT

(d) The total number of Muslims in all categories under (b) is 150 and under (c) 103 Figures under each category cannot be supplied due to security reasons

(e) The statement below gives the information required —

Cadre	No. of persons promoted from lower ranks	Minimum period after which promoted.	No of Muslims promoted from lower ranks	Minimum period after which promoted.
Superintending Meteorologist	4	13 years	Nil	
Meteorologist	15	4 "	1	10 years
Assistant Meteorologist	28	10 "	2	12 "
Professional Assistant	21	2½ months	2	2½ months
Meteorological Assistant	52	9 "	10	2½ years
Senior Observer and Observer	140	2 "	33	1½ years

Information promised in reply to part (c) of Starred Question No 504, asked by Mr Kailash Bihari Lall, on the 17th March, 1944

BIHARIS AS ASSISTANT GEOLOGISTS

Assistant Geologist—One
Higher capacity—None

Information promised in reply to Starred Question No. 520, asked by Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall, on the 20th March, 1944

BIHARIS IN THE INCOME-TAX DEPARTMENT

- (a) There are eight Commissioners of whom five are Indians,
(b) The figures are —
Eight in the Punjab, North West Frontier and Delhi Provinces,
Eight in the United Provinces, Central Provinces and Berar,
Nine in Bengal and Assam,
Seven in Madras,
Twelve in Bombay, Sind, British Baluchistan and Ajmer Merwara, and
Five in Bihar and Orissa.
Out of the five Assistant Commissioners in Bihar and Orissa two are Biharis
(c) There are 406 Income tax Officers, grades I and II, of whom 15 are Biharis, the latter being employed in Bihar and Orissa against the sanctioned strength of 25 officers for that Province
(d) One hundred and thirtytwo

Information promised in reply to Starred Questions Nos. 561 and 562, asked by Mr Muhammad Nauman, on the 21st March, 1944

MUSLIMS IN BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY

- No 561 —(a) 228 of whom 43 are Muslims
(b) The total number of persons recruited during 1942 and 1943 was 35 and 57 respectively. The vacancies were advertised.
(c) The total number of applications received from Muslims was 78 out of whom 61 were called for interview, only 40 of the latter appeared for interview and 25 were selected.
(d) The Selection Boards were constituted in accordance with the rules, and no vacancies which should have been filled by direct recruitment were filled in any other way.

APPOINTMENTS MADE IN THE STORES DEPARTMENT, BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY

No 562 —(a) 154, all temporary, composed of 78 Hindus, 72 Muslims, 1 Scheduled Caste, 2 Anglo Indians and 1 O M C

- (b) Normal methods of recruitment were followed 7 persons were taken from the same Department and one was transferred from another Department, the rest were recruited direct.
(c) The answer to the first part is in the affirmative. In the recruitment conducted specially for the Stores Department 57 Muslims were called for interview of whom 24 presented themselves; 10 of these were selected for appointment.
(d) For the special recruitment to the Stores Department, there was a total 1,440 applications of which 429 were from Muslims.
(e) The Boards were constituted according to the rules and there was one Muslim Officer on them.

Information promised in reply to Unstarred Questions Nos 147 and 148, asked by Mr N M Joshi, on the 21st March, 1944

DISBURSEMENT OF FINES FUND ON OUDH AND FERTH RAILWAY

No 147—There is no Fines Fund on the O & F Railway. There is, however, a Staff Benefit Fund. Disbursements from the Fund are not made on a communal basis. Grants

are made from this Fund for Institutes and in 1943-44 the grants made amounted to Rs 3000 and Rs 6000 approximately to European and Indian Institutes respectively

POSTING OF UN PAID PROBATIONERS AS GUARDS ETC ON OUDH AND TIRHUT RAILWAY

No 148—(b) The Substitutes were upto now being paid upto Rs 10 per month. The Railway have now issued instructions that they should be paid at the minimum of the grade in which they work.

Information promised in reply to Un Starred Questions Nos 153 and 155 asked by Mr Muhammad Ashar Ali on the 22nd March 1944

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE OF SHAHDARA DELHI MUNICIPALITY

No 153—Statement of total income and expenditure of the Municipal Committee Shahdara Delhi for the years 1940-41, 1941-42 and 1942-43 under the various major heads

INCOME

Head of Account	1940-41	1941-42	1942-43
	Rs	Rs	Rs
1 General Departments	47,796	48,614	57,248
2 Education			
3 Medical			
4 Public Health	2,669	2,922	2,806
5 Water Supply	2,027	2,085	2,125
6 Veterinary Department			
7 Municipal Works			5
8 Suspense Accounts	1,118	2,111	2,163
Total Income	53,610	56,732	64,752
Opening balance	16,449	27,324	32,508
Grand Total	70,059	84,056	96,860
Total Expenditure	42,735	51,548	72,112
Closing balance	27,324	32,508	24,748

EXPENDITURE

Head of Account	1940-41	1941-42	1942-43
	Rs	Rs	Rs
1 General Departments	12,233	14,303	22,786
2 Education	1,620	1,620	1,665
3 Medical	1,811	2,115	1,481
4 Public Health	15,158	16,608	22,025
5 Water Supply	6,052	6,882	12,544
6 Veterinary Department	800	992	833
7 Municipal Works	4,050	3,434	7,491
8 Suspense Account	880	4,126	2,169
9 Reserve for unforeseen charges	131	1,458	1,118
Grand Total	42,735	51,548	72,112

DESIRABILITY OF INCREASING ELECTED ELEMENT IN SHAHDARA DELHI MUNICIPALITY

(a) Yes

(b) and (c) Hitherto the Committee has consisted entirely of nominated members. It is now proposed to divide the town into four wards each returning one elected member. As the elected element is being introduced for the first time in this Committee it is not considered necessary to make any change in the proposed number of elected and nominated members.

Information promised in reply to Starred Questions Nos 608, 609 and 610 asked by Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kasmi on the 24th March 1944

PAY ETC OF SUB POSTMASTERS

No 608—(c) No

(d) Does not arise

(e) 48 candidates below the age of 25 years joined the Department as extra departmental agents working as sub postmasters during the period 1930-33 of whom 28 are still continuing

MEMORIAL OF SUB-POSTMASTERS IN U P. FOR INCREASE OF ALLOWANCE

No 608—(a) Yes

(b) Yes, but the figures regarding the increase in expenditure as stated by the Honourable Member are not correct

CONVERSION OF AN EXTRA DEPARTMENTAL SUB-POST OFFICE INTO A BRANCH POST OFFICE

No 610—(b) The information is given in the statement below—

Name of office	Hours of work						Cost		Income			
	Before conversion			After conversion			Before conversion	After conversion	Before conversion	After conversion		
	H	M	S	H	M	S	Rs	Rs	Rs			Rs
Sunderbagh	4	22	0	6	52	0	44 0 0	99 0 0	262	5	0	705 5 5
Advocate	3	35	30	6	25	30	30 0 0	80 0 0	99	12	0	339 1 0
Hamdam	3	27	0	5	8	30	30 0 0	85 0 0	84	10	8	201 11 7
Victoriaganj	3	15	30	5	40	0	42 0 0	97 0 0	95	4	0	235 15 0

Information promised in reply to part (a) of Starred Question No 616, asked by Mr H A Sathar H Essak Sait, on the 24th March, 1944

SELECTION FOR POST OF ASSISTANT COAL SUPERINTENDENT IN STATE RAILWAY COAL DEPARTMENT

As regards the second part of part (a), Government understand that there was only one Muslim applicant who did not however, possess the experience required

Information promised in reply to parts (c), (e) and (f) of Starred Question No. 631, asked by Sardar Sant Singh, on the 27th March, 1944

KEEPING OF MILCH CATTLE IN ORTHODOX QUARTERS

(c) The New Delhi Municipal Committee report the figures as nine

(e) In present conditions the maintenance of the milk supply as well as the supply of other commodities presents problems which will continue to cause anxiety to the local authorities for some time to come, but the Honourable Member may rest assured that they are doing their best to cope with a difficult situation

(f) So far as milk supply is concerned no distinctions are drawn between one class of the population and another

Information promised in reply to Starred Question No 635, asked by Mr. Nabi Baksh Illahi Baksh, Bhutto, on the 27th March, 1944

BUYING AND SELLING OF LAND BY DELHI IMPROVEMENT TRUST

(a) The operations of the Delhi Improvement Trust are conducted under and regulated by the United Provinces Town Improvement Act 1919 as extended to the Delhi Province. These operations include the acquisition of land and its resale after developments, and the sale price of the developed plots is naturally higher in most cases than the acquisition price

(b) and (c) It is not correct that the Delhi Improvement Trust acts in the manner mentioned

Information promised in reply to Starred Question No 647, asked by Mr Kailash Bihari Lal, on the 27th March, 1944

HIGH-HANDEDNESS OF LANDLORDS IN DELHI

(a) Yes

(b) Allegations made in the article against the Police are not true. The Police have strict instructions to be extremely careful in dealing with any case which appears to be registered by a landlord for the purpose of putting pressure on a tenant

(c) Complaints are reported to have been received by the local authorities that excessive rents are being demanded by landlords in all parts of the town

(d) In view of the reply to part (b), this does not arise

(e) There are administrative difficulties in the extension of the New Delhi House Rent Control Order 1939 to areas in Old Delhi, but Government have other measures under

Information promised in reply to Unstarred Question No. 193, asked by Mr Muhammad Ashar Ali, on the 28th March, 1944

PROSECUTION OF OFFICERS OF SHRI GOPAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, DELHI

- (a) Yes
- (b) Yes
- (c) The persons arrested were either office bearers of the Chamber or persons who were found to be actually engaged in the objectionable transactions
- (d) No
- (e) Certain representations were received but the law had been set in motion and it was not considered necessary to interfere
- (f) Yes
- (g) The High Court held that Rule 94-C was not applicable and that view is not contested. The opposite opinion must therefore be regarded as mistaken
- (h) The interest shown by the officers in this case was official and not personal

Information promised in reply to part (b) of Starred Question No. 690, asked by Seth Yusuf Abdool Haroon on behalf of Qasim Muhammad Ahmad Kasmi, on the 29th March 1944

WIRELESS LICENCE ESTABLISHMENT OF POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT

- (b) Three Programme Assistants have been promoted to the post of Station Director, one in a permanent and the other two in an officiating capacity, and nine Programme Assistants have been promoted as Assistant Station Directors in an officiating capacity

Information promised in reply to Starred Question No. 695, asked by Mr Kailash Bihari Lall, on the 29th March, 1944

SUNDAY AND OTHER HOLIDAY ALLOWANCES PAID TO ANGLO-INDIAN AND EUROPEAN GUARDS ON OLD EAST INDIAN RAILWAY SECTION

Yes, in respect of staff recruited before one which was in force under the E I Railway Company and c 1st September 1930

Information promised in reply to Unstarred Question No. 214, asked by Mr Kailash Bihari Lall, on the 29th March, 1944

CASES OF FRAUD ETC., AGAINST EAST INDIAN RAILWAY SERVANTS

- (a) According to the information contained in registers maintained by the Accounts Office, there were 15 cases of frauds, etc., including one which was detected in 1942 and remained under investigation upto March 1944
- (b) 11 cases were detected by the Executive, 3 by the Accounts Department and 1 by Audit Department. Out of these, one case involving an amount of Rs 3,022 11 0, is under trial in court, in one involving an amount of Rs 6,000, the person concerned was discharged, in 7 cases of losses of stores the total amount involved was Rs 1,176 11 0, which was written off, in one case the amount involved (Rs 3 13 0) was paid by the employee concerned, who was transferred to another station, 5 cases involving Rs 9,574 9 6 remain to be finally disposed of. In one of these, involving Rs 8,000 some staff at fault have already been dismissed from service and in another involving Rs 1,412, which is still pending, the amount embezzled has been made good
- (c) Please refer to item (b) above
- (d) 7 cases were enquired into departmentally, 6 by the Railway Watch and Ward staff, one by Police and one by Railway Watch and Ward Staff and Police together
- (e) In one case only, it was found necessary to obtain legal opinion which was to the effect that the matter should be dealt with departmentally

Information promised in reply to Unstarred Question No. 223, asked by Mr. Muhammad Ashar Ali, on the 30th March 1944

CASES OF INFRINGEMENT OF HOURS OF WORK FOR RAILWAY EMPLOYEES NOT COVERED BY FACTORIES ACT

First part of the question—Statement showing the number of cases of infringement of the Hours of Employment Regulations detected and reported during the years 1931-32 to 1943-44, is enclosed

Second part of the question—The irregularities noticed were reported to the respective Railway Administrations and action was taken by them to rectify the same.

Statement showing the number of cases of infringement of the Hours of Work detected and reported during the years 1931-32 to 1943-44

Year	Railway	Working outside Rostered Hours		Working during periods Rest		Grand Total
		Occasion ally	Habitually	Occasion ally	Habitually	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1931-32	N W E I	38 5	12	34 8	5	102
1932-33	N W E I E B G I P	11 3 17 7	5 5 1	13 6	1 4	73
1933-34	N W E I E B G I P	10 14 5 4	13 14 14 4	24 11 2	4 11 9 8	147
1934-35	N W F I E B G I P	19 26 5 4	21 22 12 10	38 36 8 5	8 17 21 10	262
1935-36	N W E I L B G I P B B & C I M & S M	34 22 2 9 30 10	27 32 9 8 24 12	37 36 3 5 8 1	16 22 7 5 8 7	374
1936-37	N W E I E B G I P B B & C I M & S M	23 16 1 2 28 20	19 5 4 3 11 17	12 10 2 1 8 14	14 10 3 2 2 12	247
1937-38	N W E I F B G I P B B & C I M & S M B & N W	43 30 7 10 22 34 8	55 49 5 4 32 63 14	34 18 5 10 15 18 26	21 11 5 7 18 35 24	624
1938-39	N W E I E B G I P B B & C I M & S M B & N W	11 11 21 40 30 30 2	45 49 17 20 35 13 8	50 25 12 24 10 8 6	15 15 7 21 35 4 4	564
1939-40	N W E I E B G I P B B & C I M & S M B & N W	59 62 9 24 17 22	12 80 10 23 43 53	2 23 1 13 28	65 118 14 39 128 25 3	674
1940-41	N W E I E B G I P B B & C I M & S M B & N W A & B B N R & K S T	17 56 4 42 26 2 2 4 7	22 23 17 25 30 2 1 2 9	28 11 16 17 14 12 3 5 9	70 48 40 48 180 18 19 4 29	860

Year	Railway	Working outside Rostered Hours		Working during periodic Rest		Grand Total
		Occasion ally 3	Habi- tually 4	Occasion ally 5	Habi- tually 6	
1	2					7
1941 42	N W	27	33	15	7	
	E I	18	38	28	39	
	E B		28	6	19	
	G I P	50	15	24	13	
	B B & C I	46	68	44	55	887
	M & S M	33	38	11	11	
	B & N W	2	1	2	3	
	A & B	4	19	5	9	
	B N	17	27	9	13	
	R & K	4	2	13	9	
	S I	3	6	10	6	
	B & A	3	20	5	29	
1942 43	N W	27	43	37	26	
	E I	27	20	9	22	
	B & A	14	22	25	41	
	G I P	26	21	21	26	
	B B & C I	75	74	33	48	885
	M & S M	39	22	18	15	
	B & N W	16	13	3	2	
	B N	25	27		22	
	R & K	5	6		3	
	S I	3	9	6		
	O & T	4	8	2	1	
1943 44	N W	37	37	22	49	
	E I	29	28	14	17	
	B & A	13	15	12	12	
	G I P	21	18	24	21	647
	B B & C I	24	31	15	21	
	M & S M	26	20	9	1	
	O & T	21	25	15	19	
	B N	7	16	10	9	
	S I	1	4	2	2	

Number of irregularities from the 1st April 1931 to the 31st March 1944 6346

Sd Illegible
*Commissioner (Railways) and Supervisor of Railway
 Labour, Calcutta.*

Information promised in reply to Starred Question No 738 asked by Mr K S. Gupta on the 31st March 1944

PRIVATE BOATS COMMANDERED IN CERTAIN PROVINCES

Assam

(a) No boats were taken away

(d) and (g) Do not arise

Orissa

(a) 5391

(d) Rs 305196159

(g) No boats were destroyed and all have been returned to their owners

Madras

(a) and (d) 22 boats were requisitioned out of which 5 have since been returned to their owners Compensation of Rs 4850 has been paid for 4 boats and the amount to be paid for the remaining 13 boats is still under correspondence In addition 109 boats were purchased for approximately Rs 4½ lakhs

(g) This has not arisen in view of the small number of boats involved

Information promised in reply to part (b) of Starred Question No 740 asked by Mr Muhammad Nauman on the 3rd April 1944

RECRUITMENT ON OUDH AND TIRHUT RAILWAY IN OFFICERS' GRADE

(b) The reply is in the negative to both parts

Information promised in reply to Starred Questions Nos. 741, 742 and 745 asked by Maulana Zafar Ali Khan on the 3rd April 1944

SENIORITY OF CERTAIN GUARDS IN HOWRAH DIVISION EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

No 741—(b) Presumably the Honble Member is referring to Grade I and Grade II Guards when he mentions Grade A and Grade B. The ten Grade II Guards who were inter viewed between November 1943 and March 1944, originally occupied places below No 47 on the seniority list, but on the revision of the list have places above the original No 47

MEMORIAL OF B CLASS GUARDS OF HOWRAH DIVISION FOR FIXATION OF PAY, ETC

No 742—(b) The reply is in the affirmative

SENIOR B CLASS GUARDS IN HOWRAH DIVISION

No 745—Guards Grade II are declared unfit for promotion to Grade I only by a competent authority and Government are informed that there has been no departure from this on the Howrah Division

Information promised in reply to Starred Questions Nos 746 747 748 and 750 asked by Hajee Chowdhury Muhammad Ismail Khan on the 3rd April 1944

RECRUITMENT OF INFERIOR STAFF IN ENGINEERING AND MECHANICAL DEPARTMENTS OF EAST INDIAN RAILWAY

No 746 (a) and (b) Railway Administrations are not required to maintain communal percentages for the recruitment of inferior staff and labourers separately by Departments such percentages applying to inferior services as a whole on each Railway. A statement is attached giving the numbers of inferior staff communitywise recruited to the Engineering and Mechanical Departments during the period for the F B zone figures for the A B zone not being readily available. From this it will be observed that while the percentages approximated to that prescribed before 1943 they fell short of the increased percentages prescribed after that date. This was on account of the peculiar conditions in the Railway during the present emergency.

Statement showing the number of inferior staff including labourers recruited in the Engineering and Mechanical Departments of the F B Railway during the years 1940-41 and on the F B Zone of the A & A Railway from 1942 to the end of March 1944.

	Engineering							
	1940 Perma nent	1940 Tem porary	1941 Perma nent	1941 Tem porary	1942 Perma nent	1942 Tem porary	1943 Perma nent	1944* Perma nent
Hindus (other than Scheduled caste)	22	861	10	706	70	505	70	1389
Muslims	14	97	30	646	8	181	2*	1001
Scheduled Castes	44	1016	1	17	3	1114	32	13
Indian Christians		1						
Sikhs							17	4
Anglo Indians								
Total	80	2401	93	2685	88	1880	74	3790
Percentage of Muslims	17.5%	38.0%	32.3%	24.4%	9.1%	10.0%	20.0%	28.0%
								39.0%
								49.0%

	Mechanical							
	1940 Perma nent	1940 Tem porary	1941 Perma nent	1941 Tem porary	1942 Perma nent	1942 Tem porary	1943 Perma nent	1944* Perma nent
Hindus (other than Scheduled caste)	38	127	41	291	59	304	92	339
Muslims	37	56	22	88	27	190	26	170
Scheduled Castes								
Indian Christians	2					3	5	
Sikhs								
Anglo Indians								
Total	77	183	63	379	116	497	118	519
Percentage of Muslims	48.0%	30.6%	35.0%	23.2%	23.3%	20.7%	22.0%	33.7%
								NH
								28.7%

	Engineering	Mechanical
Permanent	33.0%	28.7%
Temporary	25.8%	23.5%

Percentage of Muslims for the whole period

Percentage prescribed prior to 1st April 1943 29.7%
Percentage prescribed from 1st April 1943 onwards 49.0%

*Figures relate to 3 months ending March, 1944

NON-POSTING OF MUSLIMS IN E I (B) SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL BRANCH,
BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY

No 747—(b) 7 Muslims have worked in the Section during the period 1939-1943

CLERICAL STAFF IN PERSONNEL AND ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES OF BENGAL AND
ASSAM RAILWAY.

No 748—According to the information readily available, 33 Hindus, 6 Muslims and 3 Anglo Indians have been promoted as Inspectors and 22 Hindus, 1 Muslim, 5 Anglo Indians, 1 Sikh and one Indian Christian have been appointed to Lower Gazetted Service

STAFF ENGAGED IN CONSTRUCTION DEPARTMENT, BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY

No 750—(a) It has been ascertained that information is not readily available and Government cannot undertake to collect the details under present circumstances

(b) No

Information promised in reply to Starred Question No 759, asked by Seth Yusuf Abdoolla Haroon, on the 3rd April, 1944

REORGANIZATION OF WHARF AND YARD STAFF

- (a) Government are informed that the matter is under consideration
(b) One memorial was submitted in 1931 and another has also recently been submitted by the staff
(c) Yes
(d) The matter is under consideration and it is not possible to anticipate the decision
(e) Yes
(f) There has been an increase of work the reference to 2 lacs is not understood
(g) The extra staff required to deal with the increased work have been provided, no other arrangements appear to be necessary

Information promised in reply to Starred Question No 779, asked by Sardar Sant Singh, on the 4th April, 1944

GAZETTED OFFICERS UNDER THE SURVEYOR GENERAL

- (a), (b) and (c) A statement giving the required information is laid on the table of the House
(d) Yes
(e) and (f) Direct recruitment to gazetted officers' posts in the Survey of India is made by competitive examination held by the Federal Public Service Commission and from volunteers from among regular army officers Royal Engineers and Indian Engineers), but very few Sikhs apply for such posts except through army channels

Statement showing the number of gazetted officers etc., employed in the Survey of India

	Hindus	Muslims	Sikhs	Others	Total
1. Gazetted Officers	43	16	2	62	123
2 Extra Asst Supdts, Asst Supdts and Supdts	43	15	2	46	106
3 Head Assts (not Head Clerks) Assts and Junior Assts	21	2		1	24

Information promised in reply to Unstarred Question No 259, asked by Mr. Ananga Mohan Das, on the 4th April, 1944

FIXING OF RATES OF FARES FOR VEHICLES BETWEEN DELHI AND SHAHDARA-DELHI

The rates of tonga fares between Delhi City and Shahdara town were fixed by the Delhi Municipal Committee. No rates have been fixed for buses as the fares charged by the Management are considered reasonable. The Shahdara Municipality was not consulted in the matter as its consent was not necessary

Information promised in reply to Unstarred Questions Nos 264, and 265 asked by Mr. G Rangiah Naidu, on the 4th April, 1944

SANITATION OF LAND BETWEEN RAILWAY BRIDGE, SHAHDARA-DELHI AND GRAND TRUNK ROAD.

No. 264—It is understood that no such statement was made

The land in question is reported to be the property of Mr Sukhbir Saran. Whenever the municipal authorities have had cause to complain of the condition of this land, they have issued notices under section 115 of the Punjab Municipal Act, 1911. The last such notice was issued on the 19th February 1944

EXPENDITURE ON SANITATION IN SHAHDARA-DELHI

No 265.—A sum of Rs 24,015 was spent by the Municipal Committee, Shahdara, on improvements and sanitation of the town during the year 1943-44

Owing however, to the financial stringency resulting from the payment of dearness allowance to its staff, the committee was unable to incur any expenditure on large scale improvements during the year 1943-44

Information promised in reply to Starred Questions Nos 789, 790, 792, 795, 796 and 797, asked by Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang, on the 5th April, 1941

TRANSFERS OF CANTONMENT EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

No 789—(d) Rs 14,827 5 9

INTRODUCTION OF LOW SCALES OF PAY FOR EMPLOYEES OF CERTAIN CANTONMENT BOARDS

No 790.—In February 1938, in order to remove certain anomalies then existing, and to check the increase in the rising costs of establishments of Cantonment Boards in the then Northern Command, the General Officer Commanding in Chief decided that all Cantonment Fund servants in this Command should be placed on uniform rates of pay according to the constitution of each Cantonment as fixed by Section 13(1) of the Cantonments Act, 1924. These grades of pay were not considered low and are generally in force now. They were fixed by the General Officer Commanding in Chief the Command in accordance with his powers of financial control over Cantonment Boards, as laid down in rules 5 and 10 of the Cantonment Fund Servants Rules, 1937, and in rules 45, 46 and 47 of the Cantonment Account Code, 1924. Cantonment Boards are allowed reasonable discretion in the matter of their staff subject to the provisions of the Cantonments Act and the rules framed thereunder. The scales of pay fixed in 1938 have served as a guide rather than as a hard and fast rule, individual cases being considered on their merits.

REORGANISATION OF CANTONMENT SERVICE.

No 792—(a) Present cost to Government—

(1) On account of pay and allowances of Military Estates Officers (full share)	Rs 2,58,660 p a
(2) On account of pay and allowances of Executive Officers (half share)	1,21,200 "
Total	3,79,860 "

Cost to Government, if Mr Deshmukh's Resolution was adopted—

(1) On account of pay and allowances of Military Estates Officers (half share), i.e. 1/2 of (1) above	1,29,330 "
(ii) On account of pay and allowances of Executive Officers at the rates of pay proposed by Mr Deshmukh (half share)	1,77,390 "
Total	3,06,720 "

Saving to Government = 3,79,860 Minus 3,06,720

73,140 "

Effect on Cantonment Funds—

Cost at present borne by Cantonment Boards—

Pay and allowances of Executive Officers at the existing rates (half share)	1,21,200 "
Cost to Cantonment Boards if Mr Deshmukh's Resolution was adopted	3,06,720 "

or Rs 1,85,520 (3,06,720 minus 1,21,200) in excess of present cost. A considerable portion of this sum would have to be borne by Government in the form of grants in aid to maintain financial equilibrium of the Cantonments concerned.

(These figures are only approximate.)

CANTONMENTS IN INDIA

No 795.—(a) Eighty one

(b) Yes

(c) Yes

(d) Fifty four

(e) Nine, including the Kirkee and Drigh Road Cantonments, where this work is carried out by the Military Estates Overseers of the Poona and Karachi Cantonments, in a part time capacity.

(f) Six, excluding Secunderabad where the Executive Officer cum Military Estates Officer is paid from local funds. There are Dehra Dun cum Clements Town cum Landour, Karachi cum Manora, Kohat, Quetta, and Wellington Cantonments.

The Military Estates Overseers in these Cantonments assist the Military Estates Officer, they only carry on certain outdoor duties under his directions.

(g) Eight, viz., Agra, Allahabad, Ambala, Jubbulpore, Lahore, Lucknow, Peshawar and Poona. This excludes Deolali where the Overseer's work is at present done in a part time capacity by the staff of the Military Estates Officer.

(h) Twenty one, including a Forester for Landour. There is only one grade that of Rs 40-2-60.

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS AS AGENTS OF MILITARY ESTATES OFFICERS

No 796 —(a) Executive Officers were appointed agents of M E Os under executive orders.

(b) The functions of these agents are to watch that no encroachments are made on Government lands and to collect rents from leased lands in their respective cantonments on behalf of Military Estates Officers.

The reasons for the appointment of agents were that the previous system under which lands in cantonments were managed by low paid Military Estates Overseers with no personal supervision, other than occasional visits, by M E Os, was found to be unsatisfactory.

(c) Yes. The new system did not however break down as stated by the Hon'ble Member. The lands in question are still under the management of M E Os. Government, at present, do not consider it desirable to amalgamate, except in special circumstances, the posts of M E Os and Executive Officers.

(d) and (e) The information asked for is as follows —

Name of Cantonment	Actual income from lands under the management of M E Os as credited to Central Revenue for 1942-43	Actual income from lands under the management of Cantt. Boards for 1942-43	Rent from class 'C' lands as realised by the Central Govt for 1942-43
	Rs. a p	Rs. a p	Rs. a p
Allahabad	13,754 0 0	14,477 0 0	614 12 0
Lucknow	7,688 12 1	4,913 4 2	39 14 0
Dehra Dun	6,424 7 0	Nd	22 9 0
Meerut	9,185 9 0	13,156 2 4	317 6 0
Agra	36,752 13 0	5,205 14 8	Nd
Barraekpore	3,053 8 10	967 4 0	581 0 0
Rawalpindi	6,187 0 0	9,040 0 0	800 0 0
Peshawar	11,460 0 0	7,705 5 0	53 0 0
Kohat	1,978 4 0	1 17 10 0	400 0 0
Lahore	10,602 0 0	2,138 8 0	216 0 0
Ambala	20,590 0 0	3,719 5 9	33 0 0
Karachi	7,320 0 0	Nd	211 0 0
Quetta	12,339 0 0	Nd	116 0 0
Jubbulpore	11,693 11 3	1,324 3 0	66 0 0
Wellington	6,227 7 2	6,024 3 9	33 0 0
Deolali	1,784 12 0	10,485 15 0	61 0 0
*Secunderabad	} *Receipts from lands in the Secunderabad and Aurangabad Cantonments are not credited to the Central Revenue but are disposed of in accordance with rule 16 of the Secunderabad and Aurangabad Cantonment Land Administration Rules, 1930		
*Aurangabad			
Poona	13,073 4 0	3,162 0 0	20 8 0
Kirkee	4,683 7 0	11,334 8 6	168 0 0
Nasrabad	7,666 3 9	7,122 7 3	136 11 0
Bareilly	6,133 10 4	10,971 4 0	1,124 9 0
Saugor	11,735 9 0	925 3 6	4 1 6
St. Thomas' Mount	13,241 0 5	229 6 9	18 10 0

(f) Yes, it is a fact, except that the General Land Register and the Land Revenue Register are maintained by Military Estates Officers and not by their Agents. The Agents only perform certain military estates duties and are subordinate to M E Os, who are responsible for the entire administration of lands (outside bazar areas) in cantonments in their respective circles.

The answer to the question in the concluding sentence is in the negative.

INCOME OF CERTAIN CANTONMENT FUNDS AND KING'S COMMISSIONED OFFICERS IN CANTONMENTS DEPARTMENT

No 797—(a)

Cantonment	Actual income for 1941-42	Actual income for 1942-43	Estimated income for 1943-44
	Rs	Rs	Rs
Secunderabad	14,31,403	12,47,524	11,71,820
Quetta	4,15,918	4,99,358	3,79,462
Peshawar	3,54,562	4,09,257	3,14,427
Lahore	2,49,758	2,64,080	2,54,117
Ambala	3,75,082	3,95,586	3,91,189
Cawnpore	2,09,990	2,39,872	2,07,001
Rawalpindi	5,78,349	7,07,893	5,79,100
Poona	6,00,933	5,54,695	5,00,606
Meerut	3,35,698	3,94,101	3,29,977
Lucknow	1,82,117	1,94,433	1,97,253
Agra	2,02,360	2,21,197	2,17,948
Mhow	3,12,585	3,81,285	3,47,218

(b)

Name of Officer	Rank	Length of service in the Cantonments Deptt. (on 1-4-44)		Monthly salary (on 1-4-44)
		Years	Months	Rs
1 H F Jeffreys	Lt Col	21	4	1,950
2 J C Curn-Duff	"	21	2	1,950
3 C M James	"	17	9	1,900
4 J E Cobett, O B E	"	15	1	1,900
5 J E Read	"	14	11	1,850
6 W E Merrill	Major	14	8	1,835
7 M Hurford-Jones	Lt Col	14	4	1,850
8 A K McGonigal	Major	13	0	1,635

(c) Agra, Bannu, Bareilly, Cawnpore, Chakrata, Delhi, Deolali, Ferozepore, Jhalund, Jubbulpore, Jullundur, Karachi, Kohat, Lahore, Meerut, Mhow, Murree, Murree Gali, Narnabad, Nowshera, Peshawar, Poona, Quetta, Rawalpindi, Rohtak, Secunderabad and Sialkot.

Income and expenditure of Cantonments fluctuate from year to year, and the calculations on which the above information is based are on the present year's financial position only.

(d)

Cantonments in which the post of Asstt Secretary exists	Name of the present incumbent	Salary and allowances per mensem	
1. Ambala	Mr Panna Lal Malhotra	Rs 215 in the scale of Rs 200—5—250	
2. Rawalpindi	Sardar Sahib Mana Singh	Salary	Rs 300
		Personal allowance	Rs 100
		Conveyance allowance	Rs 60
Quetta	*Major A E Davies		

*Major A E Davies was called up for military service in 1940, and holds a lien on this appointment. Rai Sahib Mohan Lal, Sewage Works Manager, has been appointed to officiate in the post, in addition to his own duties.

In these three Cantonments the post of Assistant Secretary is created under rule 4 of the Cantonment Fund Servants' Rules, 1937.

Name of Officer	Age (on 1-4-44)	
	Years	Months
1 Lt.-Col W R James, O B E		
M O,	1,950	One year.
2 Lt.-Col H B Graveston	1,950	One year †
3 Lt.-Col W H L J. Welman	1,950	One year †

† These two officers have since been granted a year's f
Extensions are granted only when they are essential in the

- (f) President, Cantonment Board, Secunderabad, paid from Defence Services Estimates Rs 1,900
Executive Officer, Secunderabad Cantonment, paid from the Cantonment Fund Rs 800
- (g) Three—(1) Lt Col^o S A Bowden, (2) Major J R K Wallace, M C and (3) Major R G Triggs

Information promised in reply to Starred Question No 805, asked by Mr Ananga Mohan Das, on the 5th April, 1944

AUCTION OF EXCISE CONTRACTS IN DELHI

- (a) (i) and (ii) Yes
- (ii) No. Including the still head duty, which has been sharply raised, the revenue this year is likely to exceed last year's figure by at least Rs 2,46,000.
- (b) No. The supply of liquor available being far short of the public demand the licensees are in a position to charge prices much in excess of the fixed maxima. In an auction the licence fees would have been forced up to such a level that it would have been impossible for the licensees to pay them without resort to malpractices and if in these circumstances the traditional system of auctioning the contracts had been adhered to the authorities would have laid themselves open to the charge of conniving at and profiting from contravention of the law. It has therefore been found necessary to abandon the auction system for the present.

DEATH OF MR ABDUR RASHEED CHOUDHURY

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed (Leader of the House) Sir, it is with very great regret that I have to refer to the death of an Honourable Member of this House, Mr Abdur Rasheed Choudhury which event took place some weeks ago. Mr Abdur Rasheed Choudhury represented the Muslim constituency of Assam in this Assembly since 1937. He was a fearless critic of all measures which did not appeal to him. He was a charming personality and anybody who came in contact with him inside or outside this House had nothing but esteem, regard and affection for him. This House is much the poorer by his death and I would request you to convey our personal sense of loss to the bereaved family and I would also request you to convey our condolences to the members of the bereaved family who may be there and assure them that their grief is shared equally by this House.

Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai (Bombay Northern Divisions Non-Muhammadian Rural) Sir, I wish to associate myself with what fell from the Honourable the Leader of the House, for we feel as much as any other Honourable Member of this House the absence of the charming presence of Mr Abdur Rasheed Choudhury. I am one of those who have been associated with him in this House for a period of over six years, apart from our absence during the interval. He was one of those men of sterling independence and it was impossible that any question will be viewed by him except from the point of view of genuine public interest of the country at large. He was one of those men who always devoted a good deal of energy and enthusiasm and a considerable amount of study to the question on which he was speaking before the House. He often found, that by reason of his extreme independence, he found himself giving expression to views which might or might not be in accord with those expressed by the other side of the House. He was one of those stalwarts whose presence we would always miss, because I recollect he held his own against odds from whatever it came. More than that he was a person who recognised no barrier of caste, creed or colour in the recognition of the vital interests of this country. A man of rare ability, a man of thorough independence, a man of rare industry, a man of complete accommodation with charming manners, it is difficult to find the like of him in this House and difficult to replace him. I join with the sentiments that fell from the Honourable the Leader of the House and I associate myself with the message of sympathy which has been asked to be conveyed to the members of the bereaved family.

Mawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan (Rohilkund and Kumaon Divisions Muhammadian Rural), Sir, I join with my two Honourable colleagues in paying tribute to the memory of the late Mr Abdur Rasheed Choudhury. I am sure this House will miss his presence very much. He was always very

[Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan]

active in studying the questions that came up for discussion before this House. His sense of duty to the House and to the people outside and to his constituency was indeed remarkable. I remember during the last Budget session, when the Japanese had invaded India and Mr. Abdur Rasheed Choudhury's home was not very far from the Japanese army of invasion, in spite of all worries and anxieties, he stuck to his post in this House and voted on the popular side, thus representing his constituency truly and faithfully. Every Honourable Member of this House will mourn his loss and I request you to convey our sympathies and condolences also to the bereaved family.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) I associate myself with the tribute paid to the memory of the late Mr. Abdur Rasheed Choudhury. As has been said by the Honourable the Leader of the Opposition, Mr. Abdur Rasheed Choudhury discharged his duties in this House with considerable ability and independence and he took a keen interest in the questions coming up before the House. It will be my duty to convey to the members of the bereaved family the resolution of condolence adopted by this House.

MOTIONS FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) Adjournment Motions Nos. 1 and 2. Mr. Jamnadas Mehta does not want to move them. No. 3 in the name of Sardar Sant Singh.

Sardar Sant Singh (West Punjab, Sikh) I have given an amended motion which is No. 11, which I want to move.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) This motion No. 3 has been disallowed by the Governor General on the ground that it is to the detriment of public interest.

FAILURE TO SUPPLY ADEQUATE PETROL TO THE KARACHI MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) Seth Yusuf Abdoolah Haroon has given notice of his intention to move the adjournment of the House to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance, viz., the failure of the War and Transport Department and its Agency at Karachi to supply adequate petrol to the Karachi Municipal Corporation for removal of city refuse as reported in the issue of the *Sind Observer* dated the 15th August, 1944, and thus endangering the city with outbreak of epidemics.

I understand that petrol supply is the concern of the Sind Provincial Government and not that of the Government of India.

Seth Yusuf Abdoolah Haroon (Sind Muhammadan Rural) I submit the Provincial Government has got no hand in it.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall (Member for Railways and War Transport) That is not correct.

Seth Yusuf Abdoolah Haroon: I have received a letter from the Provincial Government which says that the matter definitely rests with the Central Government who have got their central organisation over there.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I submit the matter is entirely a question between the Provincial Government acting through the Provincial Motor Transport Controller and the local body. The Provincial Government has complete discretion in the matter.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) The Central Government has nothing to do with the distribution of petrol direct to the Corporation.

Seth Yusuf Abdoolah Haroon: If the Honourable Member for War Transport will give me an assurance that the Provincial Government has got full authority in this matter, I will not pursue the matter here.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I have just answered.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) On the facts stated by the Honourable Member for War Transport, the motion is disallowed.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) Motions Nos. 5 and 6 have been disallowed by the Governor General on the ground that they cannot be moved without detriment to the public interest.

MOTIONS FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr Jamnadas Mehta has withdrawn notice of motions in his name

FAILURE TO ASSURE TERMINATION OF SERVICES OF THE U K C C WITH THE TERMINATION OF THE WAR

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) Then Mr Chattopadhyaya wants to discuss "the lack of policy of the Government of India in the face of grave danger created by the introduction of the U K C C into India and in the Government of India's failure to assure the Indian public by a communiqué to the effect that the services of the U K C C would terminate simultaneously with the termination of the war"

This question was discussed before and nothing new has cropped up since the last Session It is therefore out of order

REFUSAL OF PERMISSION FOR PUBLICATION OF CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN MAHATMA GANDHI AND H E THE VICEROY

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) Then Mr Akhil Chandra Datta wants to discuss the refusal of the Government of India of permission for publication of the entire correspondence that passed between Mahatma Gandhi and His Excellency the Viceroy since the former's incarceration in August 1942

Has not the entire correspondence been published with the exception of one letter?

Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta (Chittagong and Rajshahi Divisions Non-Muhammadan Rural) I understand it has only been recently published after I gave notice of this motion

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) Then this motion cannot be moved

GOVERNMENT COMMUNICATION DESCRIBING MR PHILLIPS, PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE OF PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT, AS *persona non-grata*

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) Then Sardar Sant Singh wants to raise the question of "the communication of the Secretary to the Government of India for External Affairs describing Mr Phillips, a Personal Representative of President Roosevelt as *persona non grata* for advocating the cause of freedom of India"

This has been disallowed by the Governor General on the ground that it cannot be moved without detriment to the public interest

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) The next four motions stand in the name of Mr Akhil Chandra Datta and all relate to the subject of food As there is to be a debate on this subject tomorrow, they cannot be discussed

Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta: Sir, the subject of my motion has nothing to do with the general food situation of the country but with a specific case of wastage

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) It cannot be in order because the whole position will be open to discussion tomorrow

Prof N G Ranga being absent, his motions cannot be taken up

DISMISSAL OF SARDAR SHAUKAT HAYAT KHAN, A MINISTER IN THE PUNJAB

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) Then Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan wants to move the adjournment of the House to discuss "the failure of the Governor General to exercise general control and issue necessary directions in the matter of the misuse by the Governor of the Punjab of the power conferred upon him under section 51 of the Government of India Act, 1935, inasmuch as he used that power against an individual Minister and dismissed from ministership Sardar Shaukat Hayat Khan without furnishing the particulars of allegations or charges against him and did not allow him any

[Mr President]

opportunity to give his explanation or defence before dismissal, which is the inherent right of every citizen according to the rules of natural justice, thereby casting grave reflection on the honour of Sardar Shaukat Hayat Khan and has, in spite of repeated demands, declined to disclose the full facts."

How is this Assembly entitled to discuss a matter of this kind?

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan (Rohilkund and Kumaon Divisions Muhammadan Rural) Sir; section 54(1) of the Government of India Act reads

"In so far as the Governor of a province is by or under this Act required to act in his discretion or to exercise his individual judgment, he shall be under the general control of, and comply with such particular directions, if any, as may from time to time be given to him by the Governor General in his discretion."

Mr President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) Did the Governor General give any direction in this case?

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: I do not know

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) Then this section does not apply

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: It does, because my point is that failure to take action is an action in itself, and I am sure the legal luminaries here will agree with me that when under a provision of the Act the Governor General had power to give directions where such powers are used by Governors under his control, and if he has not taken any action he has really failed in his duty. Now according to our rule 12 read with rule 23 we can move an adjournment motion or a Resolution with regard to any action of the Governor General provided he gives his consent. I applied through the Secretary of the Assembly to the Governor General to accord his consent to the moving of this motion. I have received a reply that while reserving discretion to exercise his powers of disallowance in respect of the motion His Excellency the Governor General does not consider his affirmative consent to be required to the moving of the same. So from this it appears that the Governor General has no objection to this motion being moved, as far as the question of consent is concerned.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) He has reserved his power

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: He has reserved his power of disallowing the motion and now it is for you to decide whether his consent is necessary or not

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) If the Honourable Member's contention is correct it would mean that this Assembly is entitled to review the administration of every province in which the Governor of the province has exercised his discretion in any manner

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: Yes, that is my contention, that all these powers that are enjoyed by Governors and used in their discretion and are under the control of the Governor General can be discussed on the floor of this House if the Governor General has no objection to that matter being discussed

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) Then it means that this Assembly can call up on the Governor General to exercise his power of supervision or control over the discretion of Governors of provinces in any case it likes

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: There is no question of this Assembly forcing the Governor General to take action

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) If you are criticising the Governor General for not taking action, it follows that you want him to take certain action

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: As I have submitted before, failure to take action is action in itself

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) Not in all cases. I do not know why the Honourable Member says that,

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: Sir, if you see somebody committing a crime and you do not take any action, you are guilty of abetment. Therefore failure to take action is action in itself, and my submission is that legally it is really an action if you fail to take action under the powers which are conferred upon you. Otherwise it would mean that the general control which has been given under the Government of India Act to Governor General is really meaningless.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) It would be nullifying the provincial autonomy altogether.

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: There is no question of provincial autonomy. It is not the action of the Government of that province which we want to discuss.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) The Governor is an important part of the Provincial Government under the Act.

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: The distinction has been made in the Government of India Act between actions by the Governor in his discretion, or in his judgment, and action by the Governor acting with his Ministers. As far as the actions of the Governor acting with his Ministers are concerned, I submit, all those matters are really for the Provincial Governors and for the Provincial Legislatures to take up, but where any special power is given and that power is under the control of the Governor General, I submit that that is a matter which concerns the Centre and can be taken up in the Central Assembly.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) If the contention of the Honourable Member were correct, it would mean that in any case in which the Governor of a province has acted in his discretion, this Assembly would be entitled to call upon the Governor General to review and, if necessary, reverse the action taken by the Governor and pass some other orders instead. The entire scheme of the Act of 1935 is to concede autonomy to the provinces within certain limits. The Government of a province includes the Governor and the Act has chosen, rightly or wrongly, to give the Governor of every province powers to pass orders in certain cases in his discretion. It is quite true that the Governor General has the power to deal with such cases in his own discretion, but in this case he has not so acted. And, therefore, if this motion of Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan be accepted it would come to this that this Assembly should call upon the Governor General in any such case to exercise his discretion in any way the Assembly thinks it should be exercised. I must say that this motion cuts right across the whole scheme of the Act of 1935 and is therefore out of order.

FAILURE TO APPLY IN TIME FOR HELP FOR INDIA TO THE U.N.R.R.A.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) The next notice is from Mr. K. S. Gupta. He has given notice of his intention to move the adjournment of the Assembly for discussing a matter of urgent public importance, namely, "the failure of the Government of India to apply for help in time to the U.N.R.R.A. though India has been admitted as a nation entitled to receive relief from U.N.R.R.A."

The Honourable Member has said that application was not made in time, what is meant by that?

Mr. K. S. Gupta (Ganjam cum Vizagapatam Non-Muhammadan Rural) Time was fixed for applications to be received and application was not made in time.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) What time was fixed for any such applications to be received?

Mr. K. S. Gupta: Grants are to be made by the end of the financial year—April. The Government of India did not apply though they were entitled to do so.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) In your notice of motion you have said 'it was not made in time', now you say it was not made at all.

Mr. K. S. Gupta: Yes, Sir. It has not been made as yet.

The Honourable Sir M. Anzul Huque (Member for Commerce and Industries and Civil Supplies) I think my Honourable friend has got entirely the wrong facts. The House will remember that at the last Session a resolution was carried in which an amendment on the lines of a similar amendment sponsored by the American Congress, more or less substantially on the same lines, was approved by this House and it was suggested that we should try to include that in the constitution of U N R R A. I think it is well known, except in the case of those who have not been in touch with daily papers, that that Resolution has been agreed to by the U N R R A only about a month or two ago. Therefore, we could not have possibly applied till that amendment was incorporated as a part of the U N R R A constitution. All our difficulties happened in 1943 when there were difficult conditions in Bengal. I think it is well known that this year the Bengal Government has been able to purchase surplus grains to the extent of 700,000 tons and we would look ridiculous if we were now to apply on behalf of Bengal for more foodgrains. I think we could not then apply under the U N R R A constitution and there was no time limit and it is only now, about a month ago, that any area affected by famine and pestilence if of importance to the military.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) The Honourable Member will probably tell us why application for help was not made during the last famine.

The Honourable Sir M. Anzul Huque At that time we could not apply under the rules. I made it clear and that was why an amendment was moved and was agreed to.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) In view of the facts stated by the Honourable Member for Civil Supplies, I hold that this motion is not in order.

FAILURE TO MAKE PROPER ARRANGEMENTS TO PREVENT DESTRUCTION OF A I C C RECORDS AT ALLAHABAD

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) The next notice is from Sardar Mangal Singh. He wishes to discuss "the failure of the Government of India to make proper arrangements to prevent the destruction of A I C C records by white ants at Allahabad".

I think notice of a similar motion was received in the last Session and was ruled out of order.

Sardar Mangal Singh (East Punjab, Sikh) It was not moved last time.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) It was and I hold that this motion is not in order.

MISUSE OF THE NATIONAL WAR FRONT ORGANISATION BY MALIK KHIZAR HAYAT KHAN TIWANA, LEADER OF THE PUNJAB BRANCH

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) The next adjournment motion stands in the name of Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan. He wishes to move for the adjournment of the business of the Legislative Assembly for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance, viz., the failure of the Governor General in Council to prevent and stop the misuse of the National War Front Organization by the Provincial Leader of the Punjab Branch, Malik Khizar Hayat Khan Tiwana, who has been utilizing the National War Front Organization for propaganda in favour of and collection of funds for a political party—"the Zamindars League"—thereby creating a great deal of hostility amongst a large section of people against the National War Front.

I have heard of the National War Front. Is it a Department of the Government of India?

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan (Rohilkund and Kumaon Divisions, Muhammadan Rural) Yes, Sir.

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed (Member for Information and Broadcasting) The question raised there is with respect to something which has been done by the National War Front Organization in the Punjab through its leader, the Provincial leader of the Punjab Branch. So far as the Branch is concerned it is not under the control of the Centre at all.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) But is not the Punjab organization under the control of the Punjab Government?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: Yes, of the Leader. But the organisation as such is not under us except for a limited purpose. Schemes are prepared by the Provincial organisation and submitted to us for approval and those schemes must refer to war efforts or to matters connected with the war directly or indirectly. If those schemes are approved by us then we place certain funds in their hands to implement those schemes. This question of the Zamindara League has nothing to do with us.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) Supposing the organisation is utilised for some purpose other than what it was intended for?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed. That is a matter entirely for the Provincial Government. It has nothing to do with us. The moment it is not utilised for the specific purpose intended, the funds placed in their hands will be withdrawn on the recommendation of the Auditor General. Apart from that, I understand that no funds were collected for the Zamindara League on any of these occasions.

Several Honourable Members: They were

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: There was no propaganda by anybody at these meetings. It is true some of the organisers presented an address to the leader who happens to be the Premier and he received it as Premier of the Province. So we have nothing to do with it. We would not tolerate anything which is not connected with any scheme approved by us. That point has been made clear to all the National War Front leaders. Nothing has been done there which should not have been done by a leader of the National War Front. He is the Premier and in that capacity he has certainly received addresses and replied to those addresses in his capacity as Premier.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) What is the nature of the misuse you complain of?

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: The meetings are held by the National War Front and Malik Khizar Hayat Khan who happens to be the leader of the National War Front goes to these meetings and makes political speeches running down all those parties who happen to be opposed to him politically. His speeches have nothing to do with the activities of the National War Front. Money is also collected—and that is a question of merit—but if you permit me I have a number of newspaper cuttings by which I can prove to the hilt that money has been collected in the name of the National War Front and by the people who are officials of the National War Front. All these purses have been presented at the meetings of the National War Front to Malik Khizar Hayat Khan for propagating political views of his party. Now, Sir, my Honourable friend, the Leader of the House, has tried to wriggle out of it by suggesting that the provincial organization is quite separate from the Central organization. I am not quite sure if he was really serious when he was making that contention. It is an all-India organization under the control of the Central Government and I would refer him to the speech he made very recently at the Publicity Advisory Committee which was held here.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) You need not go into all that. I want to know your allegations.

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: My allegations are here and if you will permit me I have cuttings.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) I simply want to know your case.

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: My case is that meetings are held by the National War Front and under the National War Front at which

speeches are made by the Provincial leader criticising the political activities of those parties that do not see eye to eye with him

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) Your contention is that the organization is being utilised for purposes other than those intended?

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: That is the point

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) As objection has been taken, will those Members who are for leave being granted rise in their places?

(On a count more than 25 Members stood up)

As not less than 25 members have stood up, leave to move the adjournment motion is granted

The motion will be taken up at 4 o'clock or earlier, if the business of the House is finished

H E THE GOVERNOR GENERAL'S ASSENT TO BILLS

Secretary of the Assembly: Sir, information has been received that the following Bills which were passed by both Chambers of the Indian Legislature during the Budget Session, 1944, have been assented to by His Excellency the Governor General under the provision of sub-section (1) of section 68 of the Government of India Act, as continued by section 317 of the Government of India Act, 1935

- 1 The Central Excises and Salt Act, 1944
- 2 The Coffee Market Expansion (Amendment) Act, 1944
- 3 The Coal Mines Safety (Stowing) Amendment Act, 1944
- 4 The Indian Companies (Amendment) Act, 1944
- 5 The Indian Aircraft (Amendment) Act, 1944
- 6 The Transfer of Property (Amendment) Act, 1944
- 7 The Insurance (Amendment) Act, 1944
- 8 The Cantonments (Amendment) Act, 1944
- 9 The Indian Merchant Shipping (Amendment) Act, 1944
- 10 The Indian Coconut Committee Act, 1944
- 11 The Indian Income-tax (Amendment) Act, 1944
- 12 The Delhi Muslim Wakfs (Amendment) Act, 1944
- 13 The Protective Duties Continuation Act, 1944
- 14 The Factories (Amendment) Act, 1944

AMENDMENT TO THE INSURANCE RULES

The Honourable Sir M. Asizul Hque (Member for Commerce and Industries and Civil Supplies) Sir, I lay on the table a copy of a further amendment to the Insurance Rules, 1939, published in Notification No 597-I(6)/43, dated the 3rd June, 1944, under Sub-section (3) of Section 114 of the Insurance Act 1938

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

NOTIFICATION

INSURANCE

New Delhi, the 3rd June 1944

No 597-I(6)/43—In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-sections (1) and (2) of section 114 of the Insurance Act, 1938 (IV of 1938), the Central Government is pleased to direct that the following further amendment shall be made in the Insurance Rules, 1939, the same having been previously published as required by sub-section (1) of the said section, namely—

For rules 3 and 4 of the said Rules the following rule shall be substituted, namely:—
 "3 Any person signing as actuary under the Act shall be a Fellow of the Institute of Actuaries, London, or a Fellow of the Faculty of Actuaries in Scotland, PROVIDED that where application is made to the Superintendent of Insurance and it is shown to his satisfaction that the employment of an Associate of such Institute of Actuaries or of such Faculty of Actuaries, or of any other person having actuarial knowledge for any specified purpose is expedient in order to enable an insurer or a provident society to carry out any of his or its obligations under the Act, the Superintendent of Insurance may grant the application and permit such person to sign as actuary for the specified purpose, subject to such conditions and restrictions as the Superintendent of Insurance thinks fit to impose"

S. R. ZAMAN, Joint Secy

NOTIFICATIONS UNDER THE DESTRUCTIVE INSECTS AND PESTS ACT

Mr. J. D. Tyson (Secretary, Department of Education, Health and Lands)
 Sir, I lay on the table a copy each of Notifications No F 16-3/43-A, dated the 28th March, 1944 and 17th July, 1944, under Section 4D of the Destructive Insects and Pests Act, 1914

Copy of Notification (Agriculture) No F 16-3/43-A, dated the 28th March 1944

In exercise of the powers conferred by sections 4A and 4D of the Destructive Insects and Pests Act, 1914 (II of 1914) the Central Government is pleased to prohibit, with effect from the 1st May 1944, the transport from the Province of Madras to any other Province of any of the articles specified in the First Schedule hereto annexed (being articles which are likely, to carry the destructive insect known as *Icerya Purchasi* and thereby cause infection to crops)—

- (a) by letter or sample post, or by air, or
- (b) by road, except by such routes as may be specified by the Government of such other Province, or
- (c) by rail or inland steam vessel, unless the consignment is accompanied by a certificate in the form set out in the Second Schedule hereto annexed and signed by the Entomologist to Government, Madras, Coimbatore, or such other office as the Director of Agriculture, Madras, may authorise in this behalf

THE FIRST SCHEDULE

Articles to which this notification applies

1 The following plants (but not the fruits thereof) namely *Sophora glauca*, Silver Wattle (*Acacia dealbata*) Black Wattle (*Acacia decurrens* and *Acacia mollissima*), Australian blackwood (*Acacia melanoxylon*), Broom (*Cytisus scoparius*) *Ulex europaeus*, Potato creeper (*Solanum jasminoides*, *Solanum Seaforthianum* and other climbing *Solanum*), all citrus species including all types of orange, lime, lemon, pomelo and grape fruit plant, apples (all *pyrus* species), all *Eucalyptus* species including *Eucalyptus spectabilis* and *Eucalyptus glauca*, *Rhodomyrtus tomentosa*, *Hypericum mysorense*, *Dodonea*, *Dandadu*, (Telugu) *Ahlat* (*Dodonea viscosa*), *Berberis tinctoria*, Rose (Rose species), *Gaultheria fragrantissima*, Rasp berry, country pears, *Bougainvillea*, *Verbena*, *Magnolia*, *Pepper*, *Tea* *Casuarina*

2 The following plant materials, namely —Buds, Cuttings, Scions, Grafts, bulbs, leaves (but not manufactured tea), seedlings, tubers, and rhizomes, of the plants specified in clause 1

3 Any articles used in packing or wrapping up any of the plants or plant materials mentioned above

THE SECOND SCHEDULE

Form of Certificate

This is to certify that the living plants/plant materials included in the consignment of which particulars are given below were thoroughly examined on (date) by (name and designation of official) a duly authorised official of the (name of the Department) and that the consignment including the packing covered by this certificate has been adequately treated and fumigated with hydrocyanic acid gas immediately prior to inspection and made free from living *Icerya Purchasi*

Date of examination and fumigation

Particulars of consignment

No and description of packages

Distinguishing marks

Description of living plants or plant materials

Exported by

Name and address of the consignee

Signature of certifying authority

Designation

The above certificate should be signed by the Entomologist to Government, Madras, Coimbatore, or such other office as may be authorized by the Director of Agriculture, Madras, in this behalf

Copy of Notification (Agriculture) No F 16-3/43-A, dated the 17th July 1944

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 4A of the Destructive Insects and Pests Act, 1914 (II of 1914), the Central Government is pleased to direct that the following amendment shall be made in the notification of the Government of India in the Department of Education, Health and Lands No F 16-3/43-A, dated the 28th March 1944, namely —

For clause (a) of the said notification, the following clause shall be substituted, namely,

"(a) by letter, sample or parcel post, or by air or sea or"

STATEMENTS LAID ON THE TABLE NET EARNINGS OF NEW RAILWAY LINES

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall (Member for Railways and War Transport) Sir, I lay on the table a copy of statement showing the net earnings for the financial year 1942-43 of new Railway lines opened on and after the 1st April, 1936

Statement showing net earnings during the financial year 1942-43 of new Railway lines opened on and after the 1st April 1936

(NOTE — Only such lines as are entirely open and have been working for a full year are included).

Serial No	Name of project	Working Railway	Gauge	Mileage	Date of opening	Net income creditable to the project for 1942-43	Percentage return of income (column 6 on capital outlay)		Estimated percentage return of income on capital outlay some years after opening as estimated originally
							1941-42	1942-43	
1	Khadro-Nawabshah	Jodhpur	Metre	30.72	20.11.1939	2,10,378	112.30 (b)	13.27	0.87 (a)

(a) This is the figure arrived at in the 'final location survey'. The earlier estimates produced before the Standing Finance Committee showed a probable return of 0.5 per cent only

(b) Revised

APPROPRIATION ACCOUNTS, AUDIT REPORTS, ETC

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Baisman (Finance Member) Sir, I lay on the table a copy* each of the following Reports and Accounts in accordance with section 109 of the Government of India Act, 1935

- 1 Appropriation Accounts (Civil) 1942-43 and Audit Report 1944
- 2 Commercial Appendix to above
- 3 Finance Accounts 1942-43, and Audit Report 1944
- 4 Appropriation Accounts (Railways) 1942-43, Parts I and II
- 5 Capital statements, Balance sheets etc., of State Railways 1942-43
- 6 Balance sheets of Railway collieries and statements of all-in costs of coal 1942-43
- 7 Railway Audit Report 1944
- 8 Appropriation Accounts (Defence Services) 1942-43
- 9 Commercial Appendix to above
- 10 Audit Report, Defence Services 1944
- 11 Appropriation Accounts (P & T) 1942-43 and the Audit Report, 1943.
- 12 Petty corrections and first list of correction to Appropriation Accounts (Civil)
- 13 Corrections to Commercial Appendix (Civil)
- 14 Corrections to Appropriation Accounts (Railways) Parts I and II
- 15 Corrections to Railway Audit Report
- 16 Corrections to Appropriation Accounts (P & T)

OBJECTS ON WHICH THE AVIATION SHARE OF THE PETROL TAX FUND WAS EXPENDED

Mr. W. H. Shoobert (Secretary, Posts and Air Department) Sir, I lay on the table a statement showing the objects on which the Aviation share of the Petrol Tax Fund was expended during 1943-44.

Objects	Expenditure Rs
<i>Clubs</i>	
Grants-in-aid to Flying Clubs in India	95,511
Financial Assistance to Indian Gliding Association	11,955
<i>Trainers</i>	
Training of a member of the staff of the Civil Aviation Directorate in certain subjects pertaining to Aircraft Inspection	226

* Not included in these Debates, but copies have been placed in the Library of the House—*Ed of D.*

STATEMENTS LAID ON THE TABLE

7A

Objects	Expenditure Rs
<i>Experimental</i>	
<i>Aircraft</i>	
Construction and operation of the Wind Tunnel at the Indian Institute of Science Bangalore for carrying out certain tests on air raft	35 509
<i>Miscellaneous items</i>	136
Transferred to the Grant for development of Civil Aviation (Civil Aviation Works)	5 00 000
Grand Total	6 43 357

AMENDMENTS TO CEYLON MOTOR VEHICLES RULES

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall (Member for Rivers and War Transport) Sir I lay on the table before the following Notifications in accordance with section 133 (3) of the Motor Vehicle Act 1939

- 1 Delhi Notification No 112 (3) of General 1 dated 28th August 1944
- 2 Coorg Notification No 113 dated the 8th May 1944
- 3 Baluchistan Notification No 244/3140/M V dated the 21st February 1942
- 4 Baluchistan Notification No 244/1841/M V dated the 17th November 1943

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER DELHI
NOTIFICATION

Delhi, the 28th August 1944

No F 12 (36)/44 General.—In exercise of the powers conferred by sections 21 and 41 of the Motor Vehicles Act 1939 read with the notification of the Government of India in the Department of Communications No R 60 dated the 28th June 1939 the Chief Commissioner of Delhi is pleased to make the following rules the same having been previously published with his notification No F 12(36)/44 General dated the 5th July 1944

Rules

1 Notwithstanding anything contained in the Delhi Motor Vehicles Rules 1940 no fee shall be charged for the issue or alteration of certificates of registration relating to motor vehicles which are the property of the High Commissioner for Australia in India or any of his secretaries

2 If the High Commissioner for Australia in India or any of his secretaries have paid or shall hereafter pay a fee for the issue or renewal of a licence to drive a motor vehicle or for undergoing a test of competency to drive the fee shall on his application be refunded to him

A V ASKWITH
Chief Commissioner Delhi

THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER OF COORG
NOTIFICATION

No 113 dated Mercara the 8th May 1944

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 68 of the Motor Vehicles Act 1939 (IV of 1939) and the notification of the Government of India Department of Communications, No R 60 dated the 28th June 1939 the Chief Commissioner is pleased to make the following amendments to the Coorg Motor Vehicles Rules 1940 issued with his notification No R F 43/12139 dated the 26th March 1940 —

Amendments

1 For Rule 50(c) of the said Rules the following shall be substituted viz —
50(c) The holder of a permit shall cause Part B thereof or the Temporary Permit as the case may be to be carried on the vehicle. It shall be produced by the driver for inspection on demand made at any reasonable time by any authorised person

2 In Part B of the Form P St S appended to the said rules for the words *summary* to be exhibited on each vehicle the words *summary* to be carried on each vehicle shall be substituted

3 In Part B of Forms P Co P & Co S appended to the said rules for the words *summary* to be exhibited on the vehicle the words *summary* to be carried on the vehicle shall be substituted

4 In Part B of Form P Pr C appended to the said rules for the words *summary* to be exhibited on each vehicle the words *summary* to be carried on each vehicle shall be substituted

K CHENGAPPA
Chief Commissioner

CHIEF COMMISSIONER FOR BRITISH BALUCHISTAN
NOTIFICATION

Quetta, the 21st February 1943

No 244/35-40/M.V.—In exercise of the powers conferred by section 68(2) (ZA) of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1939 (VI of 1939) the Chief Commissioner of British Baluchistan is pleased to direct that the following addendum shall be made to the British Baluchistan Motor Vehicles Rules, 1940 published in the Notification No 347/M.V., dated the 1st April, 1940 printed at pages 841 to 932 of the Gazette of India, Part II A, dated the 27th April, 1940 —

Addendum

In Rule 4 17 add the following as Clause 'C'
"That—if and when required, mule will be carried at such rates as may be fixed by the Provincial Transport Authority in consultation with the Postal Authorities concerned."

By order of

Secretary to the Agent to the Governor General and Chief
Commissioner in Baluchistan (Police Department)

CHIEF COMMISSIONER FOR BRITISH BALUCHISTAN
NOTIFICATION

Quetta, the 17th November 1943

No 2441/18-41/M.V.—In exercise of the powers conferred by Section 64 read with Section 68 of the Motor Vehicle Act, 1939 (IV of 1939), the Chief Commissioner of British Baluchistan is pleased to direct that the following amendments shall be made to the Notification No 347/M.V., dated the 1st April 1940 printed at pages 841 to 932 of the Gazette of India, Part II A, dated the 27th April 1940 —

Amendments

After rule 560 of the British Baluchistan Motor Vehicle Rules, 1940, the following headings and rules shall be inserted, namely —

Special Rules applicable to gas producers installed in motor vehicles

561 *Definition*—For the purpose of rules 562 to 582, the term "producer" means the whole of the equipment necessary for the generation of producer gas and its utilization in the engine of a Motor Vehicle

Regulations of the use of producers

562 (a) Every producer fitted to a Motor Vehicle on or after the 1st July, 1943, shall be of a Model approved by the Registering Authority. Every such producer shall exhibit in a conspicuous place on the generator a plate showing, in addition to the manufacturer's name and serial number, the mark as may be prescribed and assigned to the model by the Registering Authority

(b) *Approval of model*—Every manufacturer seeking approval for a producer model shall submit in duplicate to the Registering Authority, specifications and drawings (which should be blue prints or photo-stat copies) of the model he proposes to manufacture, together with a copy of the instructions for operating the producer. The thickness of the metal sheets used in the construction of the various parts of the producer shall be stated in the specifications. The manufacturer shall also give an undertaking in writing that he will submit a producer of that model to a board consisting of the Inspector of boilers, factories and electrical installation in Baluchistan, the S O M E, Quetta Arsenal and the Deputy Superintendent of Police, Traffic, Quetta and also to produce a bus or lorry fitted with a producer of that model at such time and place and for such tests including a road test of not less than fifty miles continuous run as may be determined by the board. No modification shall be made by any one in an approved model except with the approval of the board. The board may subject the modification to such test as it thinks necessary before approving it

563 *Specifications—General*—No producer model shall be approved unless it satisfies the provisions of these rules and every producer fitted on or after the 1st September 1943, shall be fitted in accordance with these rules

564 *Material of construction*—All materials used in the construction of the producer, except any component parts thereof that may be expressly excluded by the manufacturer in his guarantee, shall be suited to the load of the vehicle in which it may be installed and the temperature, chemical and other conditions under which it may be used and shall be such as will last under reasonable conditions of operation and maintenance for not less than two years

565 *Design—General*—The producer shall be of simple design and construction and shall be capable of being installed in a vehicle in such manner as —

(I) Not to interfere with the steering and road safety of the vehicle, or with the driver's range of vision including his view to the rear through the driving mirror or with any signals or signalling devices required under the provisions of the Act and these rules; and

(II) Not unduly to impair, the pay load space and the weight distribution of the vehicle.
566 *Weight*—The weight of the producer shall be the minimum having regard to the requirements of strength, rigidity, resistance to high temperature and corrosion, and to the time of the vehicle to which it is to be fitted

5 67 *Hopper capacity*.—The effective capacity of fuel hopper shall give the vehicle an operating distance of not less than 50 miles without recharging

5 68 *Accessibility*.—The producer shall be designed with a view to accessibility and ease of maintenance, cleaning, charging and ash removal. Provision for drainage shall be made where necessary

5 69 *Fitting*.—All installations connected with the producer shall be securely fixed. The installations shall not form a single inflexible unit but shall be connected with flexible couplings at appropriate points to relieve intermediate stresses

5 70 (a) *Safety*.—The manufacturer shall take precautions in the manufacture of producers to ensure safety with special regard to risk from fire, gas poisoning and blow back of hot charcoal

(b) All equipment and piping shall be free from gas or Air leaks

Covers of the furnace and gas filters and cocks and packings shall be air tight. If a generator vent pipe is fitted, the pipe shall be connected directly to the furnace or shall branch from a pipe as near as possible to the furnace. If an escape funnel is provided for use during the air blowing operations, the pipe shall exhaust above the roof level

(c) Exposed surfaces at high temperatures shall be screened against accidental contact

(d) The compartment containing the generator shall be lined with asbestos or other heat resisting material not less than a quarter inch thick

5 71 *Capacity of cleaners*.—The generator and the cleaning system shall be so designed that they will operate for not less than 40 miles without requiring attention or cleaning

5 72 (a) *Piping*.—All piping shall be of substantial and gas tight construction and provided with such joints as are necessary for the effective maintenance and repair of the vehicle. Every joint or weld shall be strong

(b) Pipe fittings shall be made of mild steel iron or copper sheet having a thickness not less than 18 B.C. (0.049 in.) or of 22 gauge G.I. piping and shall be of gas tight construction. Flanges for piping shall be constructed from metal plate of minimum thickness 1/4 in. Cooling piping for the tuyere shall be 3/8 in. internal diameter

5 73 *Painting*.—All parts of a producer, except those exposed to high temperatures shall be suitably painted, and parts exposed to high temperatures shall be painted with a satisfactory heat resisting paint

5 74 (a) *Layout*.—The whole of the producer shall be installed either outside or underneath the body of a vehicle. If the construction of the body of the vehicle is such that some part of the producer should be inside the body of the vehicle such part shall be covered so as to prevent any ill effect from gas leakage or inconvenience due to excessive heat

(b) A public service vehicle may draw a trailer used solely for the carriage of gas containers supplying, or plant or materials producing gas for the propulsion of the engine of the drawing vehicle

5 75 (a) *Location of generator*.—In the case of Stage Carriages the generator of the producer shall be located at the rear in such a position as to cause as little interference as possible with the weight distribution. In the case of a goods vehicle, the generator of the producer may be located either at the rear, as prescribed for Stage Carriages, or at the front. If the generator is located at the front, it shall be fitted beside the driver's seat, inside the driver's canopy in such a position as not to interfere with visibility or signalling

(b) The generator may be stayed or strapped to the body to provide rigidity but shall be kept away from any part of the body by at least three inches

5 76 *Location of fuel tank*.—If the generator of the producer is fitted at the front of the vehicle—

(i) The generator shall be mounted in such a position that it shall be at a minimum distance of 2 feet from any petrol tank or piping, if the tank is located inside the body of the vehicle, it shall be effectively insulated, and

(ii) the filling spout and any other opening shall be located on the opposite side of the vehicle to the generator and not less than 4 feet away from the generator, and

(iii) where an auxiliary fuel tank with gravity feed is fitted the capacity of such tank shall not exceed one gallon and it shall be located in the front portion of the vehicle as far away from the generator as practicable

5 77 *Dimensions*.—The overall dimensions of the vehicle with the producer installed, shall not exceed those permitted under the rules

5 78 *Cleaners—Installation*.—Cleaners using solid filter material shall be installed on the vehicle in such a manner as to allow efficient and convenient packing of the filter material

5 79 *Clearance*.—The road clearance at the bottom of the furnace shall be not less than 12 inches when the vehicle is unladen with the hopper full

5 80 (a) *Performance—Starting test*.—The vehicle shall be capable of moving on gas alone in not more than thirty minutes from the commencement of the starting process. For the purpose of test, the engine and the producer shall be cold at the beginning of the process

(b) *Speed*.—The vehicle shall be capable of maintaining the following speed, when running on gas alone, on level roads—

(i) Stage Carriages, loaded—25 miles per hour

(ii) Goods vehicle not being a heavy transport vehicle. Loaded—22 miles per hour

5 81 (a) *Inspection*.—When a vehicle which has already been registered is fitted with a producer, it shall invariably be inspected and tested according to these rules before the alteration is recorded in the certificate of registration under section 22 of the Act.

(b) All public service and goods motor vehicles fitted with gas producers shall be liable to an inspection quarterly by the Motor Vehicle Sergeant including a road test of not less than 25 miles

582 *General provisions*—All producers including those fitted to vehicles before the 1st September 1943, shall be of such construction and so fitted as to provide adequate satisfactory protection against danger of damage or injury arising from fire, gas poisoning or contact with exposed surface at high temperature

By order,

H D RUSHTON,

Secretary, to the Chief Commissioner, in British Baluchistan.

ELECTION OF A MEMBER TO THE STANDING FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman (Finance Member) Sir, I move

"That this Assembly do proceed to the election, for the remainder of the financial year 1944-45, in such method as may be approved by the Honourable the President, of a Member of the Standing Finance Committee in place of Mr. S C Chatterji, who has ceased to be a member of the Assembly"

Mr President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) The question is

"That this Assembly do proceed to the election, for the remainder of the financial year 1944-45, in such method as may be approved by the Honourable the President, of a Member of the Standing Finance Committee in place of Mr. S C Chatterji, who has ceased to be a member of the Assembly"

The motion was adopted

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE ADVISORY BOARD OF ARCHAEOLOGY

Mr J D Tyson (Secretary, Department of Education, Health and Lands) Sir, I move

"That the members of this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as may be approved by the Honourable the President two persons from among their own number to be members of the Advisory Board of Archaeology in India constituted by the Government of India"

The Government Resolution, to implement which I am making this motion, is self-explanatory and no doubt Honourable Members saw it when it appeared recently in the Gazette but as this marks a new departure I think the House will wish me to say a few words in amplification. In his report Sir Leonard Woolley was of the view that archaeology could and should play a far more important part than it does in the life of the Indian people and he went on to stress particularly the need for co-operation between the Archaeological Survey and the Universities. From the point of view of the Survey the need is evident and urgent. The Survey relies on the Universities for its recruits and it must, in turn, be ready and able to provide the experience and facilities necessary for their training. On the other side, the Universities have much to gain from a link with the Survey in the sphere of field-training for their archaeological students and for advanced scholars of Indian history. Apart from the Universities, there are the Indian States which have organised archaeological departments and there are the learned societies of India, upon whose sympathy and activity the Survey must depend in no small measure for popular understanding and support. We wish to have a link, therefore, between the Survey of India and these various bodies.

The composition of the Board reflects the nature of its functions. The official members include 9 senior members of the Department of Archaeology and the 14 non-official members include 6 representatives of Indian Universities and 5 nominees of learned societies likely to be interested in archaeology.

This Honourable House has repeatedly shown an interest in archaeology for the services it can render in preserving India's architectural heritage and for the light it may throw on India's remote past and it has therefore seemed to us right to invite the House to associate itself with the new Board.

I hope, Sir, I have said enough to convince the House that the principal object of this body will be to evoke interest in Archaeology and connected subjects and to bring the department and the interested public into close and friendly relationship for the interchange of views and advice on all matters of mutual concern.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) Motion moved

"That the members of this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as may be approved by the Honourable the President, two persons from among their own number to be members of the Advisory Board of Archaeology in India constituted by the Government of India"

Mr. Mann Subedar (Indian Merchants' Chamber and Bureau Indian Commerce) May I, Sir, make a remark more in the nature of an enquiry? I should like to know whether this Board will take early steps for the repatriation and restoration to India of a great many valuable archaeological treasures belonging to this country, which have been looted in the past and are now lying in the public museums and private collections in the United Kingdom. I should also like to know, if these things could not be handed over to us, as they really belong to the people of this country, whether the sterling balances, which some English people do not desire to repay to this country, could not be used to make a legitimate purchase of these archaeological treasures which have been taken away from here by force against the wish and sentiment of the people of this country and which are lying in the public museums and private collections in the United Kingdom. I am, Sir, only hoping that this Board will have the power to make such recommendations.

Sir Syed Raza Ali (Cities of the United Provinces Muhammadan Urban) Sir, I am glad that after all the Government of India have realised the necessity of forming an Advisory Board of Archaeology with, I take it, unfortunately, advisory functions only to help the Department, the activities of which have decreased very considerably of late years. We all agree that the archaeological Department is one of the most important departments; it is one of the few civilising departments that are in the hands of the present Government of India. The department has been meted out a stepmotherly treatment by the Government of India and I am afraid that those who wish in this House to help the Government of India with reference to this Department have been mostly non-officials. In spite of the keenness of my friend, Mr. Tyson, in this subject, I do not think any well considered plans have been laid before this House either now or at any time. A desire has been expressed by the Department that its budget should be expanded and that new recruits should be obtained from those sources which have not been tapped, either in this country or outside. This conciliation measure has been brought now. I wish it had a more far-reaching effect than its present moderate size indicates. All the same, never too late either to repent or to take action. Half-hearted though the measure is, I would like to give my support to it. I was almost going to say that I wished to give my half-hearted support but I do not think that it would be a wise thing on this occasion to follow in the footsteps of the Government of India. However small and ineffective the proposal may be I accord it my support.

From the speech that the Honourable Mr. Tyson delivered it appeared that the total strength of this Advisory Board would be 23. It would consist of nine members of the Department and 14 others, among whom, I take it, would be some non-officials. Some of them would be gentlemen associated with our Indian Universities. I do not know what their number would be. I thought Mr. Tyson mentioned five. I do not know whether five of these fourteen would be members associated with Indian Universities.

Mr. J. D. Tyson: Six from the Universities.

Sir Syed Raza Ali: There are two notes of warning that I must sound before we vote on this motion. One is that the advisory functions of this Board should be clearly laid down by the Government of India and secondly that position should not be assigned to this Advisory Board which is enjoyed by or which is thrust upon the Assessors helping a sessions judge in a criminal sessions trial. There should be some definite plan behind this measure.

I am very glad that the Honourable Member in charge of this Department is here in this House, where it is very seldom that we hear his voice. It is still more rare to hear his voice raised in support of those measures which should be introduced with a view to strengthening and augmenting the

[Sir Syed Raza Ali]
Archaeological Department, if that department is to do any good to this country in the future. So, the first need is that there should be a well laid plan behind the proposal which has been disclosed this morning and moved by the Honourable Member.

The next question is still more important than the first. This is a large body of 28 on which it is proposed that this House should be represented in all by two members. I take it that these two would be in addition to 23 and if I am right in this, would they be.

Mr. J. D. Tyson: There will be 55, of whom two will be from this House, we hope and one from another place.

Sir Syed Raza Ali: There would be a body of 23 and there will be three representatives of the Legislature, two from this House and one from the other. I must say at once that having regard to the importance of the subject, the number which it is proposed to assign to the Legislature is very inadequate indeed. I am very glad that the Government of India propose to associate members of the Universities with this Advisory Board but it is very important indeed that the Legislature, especially this House, should be strongly represented on this Advisory Board, if this Advisory Board is going to render any service of real value to the country. I do not propose to go into what has been done by the Archaeological Department during the last five or six years. The history is a painful history and I do not propose to go into that. I believe the reasons are well known to this House. In spite of the vigilance exercised by the Honourable Member and the Secretary of the Department, this Department has been run along lines that are applicable, I am tempted to say, to a trade union. It is high time really that the Government of India looked into the Department and saw that this Department exercises the same civilising and humanizing influence that it exerts in every other country. Fortunately, there is a new Director General of Archaeology, a gentleman whom I met some time ago and whose enthusiasm for the Department, I found, was unbounded. He has very large experience of archaeology. Not only has he rendered valuable service in connection with the present war but he possesses very valuable knowledge of archaeology. I hope the Government of India will encourage him to embark on new schemes which are useful to the department and they will expand the department. I wish him every success and I hope that he will throw himself heart and soul into the work of the department.

Before I finish my speech, I would impress on the Government of India not to insist on taking a vote today. It is a friendly advice. I am one of those who take some little interest in this department. I know most of the archaeological buildings and centres of archaeological interest, both in India and Burma. I have visited those places and I happen to know something about those places. This is my friendly suggestion to the Government of India. Let them be ready with a scheme, lay down the functions of this Advisory Board. Let them not insist on taking the vote today. Let this motion stand over and let it be tabled before this House after sometime in the current Session and let the Government of India formulate a carefully prepared scheme in which larger representation should be assigned to this Legislature. I would again say that the subject touches a matter which interests a number of members of this House and the other House as well, but I am speaking for this House now, who by reason of their past experience, training and opportunities for work, would be in a real position to help the Government of India with useful suggestions and advice.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee (Calcutta Suburbs Non-Muhammadan Urban): Sir, as one interested in this subject, I should like to say a few words on the present occasion. It cannot be denied by anybody that Archaeology is one of the most important cultural subjects which interests the whole people of the country. Previous speakers have pointed out that the development of this subject has been neglected very badly during the last ten or twenty years. Now, the Government have come forward with a proposal to create an Advisory

Board Let this be the starting point for a great development in the field of Archaeology If that is done, their past neglect would be excused

As regards the representation of the Legislature on this Advisory Board, it has been suggested that the proposed representation is inadequate I agree with this view, and I would request the Honourable Member in charge of this motion to expand the number to six for the Legislature,—four for this House and two for the other If he does that, a great deal of the complaint will cease to exist

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai (Sind Non-Muhammadan Rural) I will say a word on this I would like to be enlightened as to how many members there will be on this body Is it a fact that there will be about six from the Universities and nine officials and only two from here and one from the Council of State? In that case, I submit that two is too little representation of this House, and I suggest that the number from this House should be at least four

Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C. Chatterjee (Nominated Non-Official) Is it intended that the representatives from the Universities should be nominated by Government or that the Inter-Universities Board should elect the representatives? I suggest that it would be very much in the fitness of things that the representatives of the Universities be not nominated but elected by the individual Universities

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I am very glad that the idea of a Board for this purpose has commended itself to the House I am also glad to have the sincere if qualified support of my Honourable friend Sir Syed Raza Ali, whose interest in archaeology—the cultural side of archaeology—is well known

As questions have been raised here about the personnel of the Board, I had better say what it is I thought that Honourable Members would have seen it in their copies of the Gazette The Honourable Member in charge of the Department will be the Chairman There will be nine senior members of the Archaeological Survey,—the Director General himself, the Deputy Director General, the Epigraphist and six Circle Superintendents That is what you might call the official element from the Government of India Then we hope to have four representatives of Indian States and we hope they will come at a very high level because unless this Board is of a high level, it will not be of any help Then, we hope to have six nominees of the Inter-University Board and that answers the Reverend Dr Chatterjee These are the six representatives of Universities who will be of professorial rank and will be nominated by the Inter-University Board There will be five nominees of learned societies and three representatives of the Central Legislature In case there are any gaps to be filled up, we have retained the right to have eight nominated members by the Government of India We are asking Universities, for example, to send us only members of professorial rank and it might well happen that some wellknown archaeologist or historian did not happen in his own University to have professorial rank but was on his own merits a person whom we should very much desire to have on this Advisory Board, we have retained power to secure his membership by nomination

Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C. Chatterjee: What is meant by the "professorial rank"? A Vice-Chancellor of a University might not come in that category

Mr. J. D. Tyson: We shall have to look into that We meant University Professors I suppose the Vice-Chancellor is above professorial rank What we really want to get is people who are experts in the subjects concerned If there were any difficulty about a Vice-Chancellor, we could get him as a nominated member

I would ask this Honourable House not to press for an increase in the number of Members from the Legislature The position is that the constitution of this Board has already been announced in a Government Notification and I have not the power on the floor of the House to accept any suggestion that it should be four instead of two Let us not upset the plan of our Board We are very anxious to get this Board set up and if the Board itself, when it

{Mr J D Tyson} meets, gives advice as to its composition, we shall consider it That is certainly one of the things that they can advise us about

In answer to Mr Manu Subedar, I should like to say that while the Board is not an executive body and will not therefore be able to bring back by its executive order the treasures to which he has referred, it can certainly make recommendations on any matter of the kind that it may wish

As regards planning the business of the meetings of the Board, there is as yet no definite plan for their work They have a very free hand as to what they will discuss and what they will recommend The phraseology of the Resolution is —

"It will be the function of the Board to advise on matters related to archaeology in India referred to it by the Government or by members of the Board and to make suggestions to Government on any such matters to which the Board considers the Government's attention should be drawn"

So, the members will have an initiative of their own if they so wish and they will have a very wide field I would, therefore, ask the House to co-operate with us in getting this Board set up on the present basis We think that we have tapped all the sources from which we are likely to get really useful advice for the purpose we have in view

Mr. Lalchand Navarai: Sir, I would like to know which is the other way of getting the number of members of this House and the Council of State increased? We want to press for this increase because we were not consulted by the Government when the constitution of the Board was made

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) The Honourable Member cannot make a second speech

Mr. Kailash Bihari Lal (Bhagalpur, Purnea and the Sonthal Parganas Non-Muhammadian) Sir, may I ask the Honourable Member if he has taken into consideration the fact that the importance of Bihar in the domain of archaeology requires some representation from the Bihar Government or from the elected members of the Bihar Assembly in order to have the representation of that province on this archaeological Board?

Mr J D. Tyson: I do not dispute the importance of Bihar in the domain of archaeology, but we have not made any territorial allocation at all

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) The question is "That the members of this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as may be approved by the Honourable the President, two persons from among their own number to be members of the Advisory Board of Archaeology in India constituted by the Government of India"

The motion was adopted

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) I have to inform Honourable Members that for the purpose of election of a Member to the Standing Finance Committee in place of Mr S C Chatterji, and of two Members for the Advisory Board of Archaeology in India, the Notice Office will be open to receive nominations up to 12 Noon on Friday, the 3rd November, 1944, and that the elections, if necessary, will be held on Tuesday, the 7th November The elections, which will be conducted in accordance with the principle of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote, will be held in the Assistant Secretary's room in the Council House between the hours of 10-30 A M and 1 P M

THE INDIAN RICE COMMITTEE BILL

Mr. J. D. Tyson (Secretary, Department of Education, Health and Lands) Sir, I introduce the Bill to provide for the creation of a fund to be expended by a Committee specially constituted for the improvement and development of the cultivation, production and marketing of rice and rice products

THE INDIAN PATENTS AND DESIGNS (TEMPORARY AMENDMENT) BILL

The Honourable Sir M. Asitru Hogue (Member for Commerce and Industries and Civil Supplies) Sir, I move for leave to introduce a Bill temporarily to amend the Indian Patents and Designs Act, 1911

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) The question is
"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill temporarily to amend the Indian Patents
and Designs Act, 1911"

The motion was adopted

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: Sir, I introduce the Bill

THE PUBLIC DEBT (CENTRAL GOVERNMENT) BILL

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman (Finance Member) Sir, I move

"That the Bill to consolidate and amend the law relating to Government securities issued by the Central Government and to the management by the Reserve Bank of India of the public debt of the Central Government be continued"

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) The question is

"That the Bill to consolidate and amend the law relating to Government securities issued by the Central Government and to the management by the Reserve Bank of India of the public debt of the Central Government be continued"

The motion was adopted

THE PAYMENT OF WAGES (AMENDMENT) BILL

The Honourable Dr B. R. Ambedkar (Labour Member) Sir, I introduce the Bill further to amend the Payment of Wages Act, 1936

THE COFFEE MARKET EXPANSION (SECOND AMENDMENT) BILL

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque (Member for Commerce and Industries and Civil Supplies) Sir, I introduce the Bill further to amend the Coffee Market Expansion Act, 1942, (*Second Amendment*)

THE INSURANCE (SECOND AMENDMENT) BILL

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque (Member for Commerce and Industries and Civil Supplies) Sir, I introduce the Bill further to amend the Insurance Act, 1938, (*Second Amendment*)

THE DELHI JOINT WATER AND SEWAGE BOARD (AMENDMENT) BILL

Mr J. D. Tyson (Secretary, Department of Education, Health and Lands) Sir, I introduce the Bill further to amend the Delhi Joint Water and Sewage Board Act, 1926

THE PUBLIC DEBT (CENTRAL GOVERNMENT) BILL

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman (Finance Member) Sir, I move

"That the Bill to consolidate and amend the law relating to Government securities issued by the Central Government and to the management by the Reserve Bank of India of the public debt of the Central Government be referred to a Select Committee consisting of Mr. Muhammad Nauman, Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali, Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari, Mr. T. Chapman Motimer, Khan Bahadur Ali Ghulam Kadir Muhammad Shabbir Khan Bahadur Sheikh Habibur Rahman, Dr. Sir Ratanji Dimeshaw Dalal, Mr. D. P. Sethna and the Mover and that the number of Members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the Committee shall be five"

Honourable Members will recall that this Bill was circulated on a motion which I moved on 25th August 1943. The opinions since received have disclosed a general approval of the principles of the Bill. There has been a certain amount of concern at the fact that the carrying out of certain amendments and improvements in the law relating to the Central public debt will, for the first time, mean that the law regulating the public debt of the Centre will be different from the law regulating the public debt of the Provinces. But that fact flows from the constitutional position and that constitutional position is, I suggest, quite reasonable. The position under the constitution is that the Central Legislature has power to legislate for the public debt of the Central Government and the Provincial Legislatures have power to legislate regarding their own public debt. The only thing I can say with regard to that is that it is for us to go ahead with our own legislation and to hope that the Provincial Governments will in due course follow suit.

[Sir Jeremy Raisman]

I will not detain the House with points of detail which I think can most conveniently be dealt with by the Select Committee. There is one feature of the Bill which I might perhaps mention and that is, what is known as the vesting order, namely, the right which it is proposed to confer on the Reserve Bank to make an order determining the person who shall so far as the Bank is concerned be deemed to be the person entitled to a security, where there are two or more rival claimants. Honourable Members will have noticed that this provision is so drafted that the interested parties will not suffer in case the determination made by the Bank as to the person entitled to the security should in the end prove to be incorrect. Before the Bank can under section 12 of the Bill make an order vesting the security in a particular person, it has to give notice in writing to each claimant stating the names of all the other claimants and the time when and the Officer of the Bank by whom the determination will be made. The result of such determination will also be notified to the parties concerned.

One other point, before I sit down, my Honourable friend Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghami drew attention to two or three detailed features of the Bill on the occasion when it was last before the House. In the course of circulation, some support has been expressed for the points which he put forward and I have no doubt that the Select Committee will take these points into consideration. Sir, I do not think I need take up any more time of the House. Sir, I move.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) Motion moved

'That the Bill to consolidate and amend the law relating to Government securities issued by the Central Government and to the management by the Reserve Bank of India of the public debt of the Central Government be referred to a Select Committee consisting of Mr. Muhammad Nauman, Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali, Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari, Mr. T. Chapman Mortimer, Khan Bahadur Mian Ghulam Kadir Muhammad Shahban, Khan Bahadur Sheikh Habibur Rahman, Dr. Sir Ratanji Dinkshaw Dalal, Mr. D. P. Sethna and the Mover and that the number of Members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the Committee shall be five.'

The Assembly then adjourned for Lunch till Half Past Two of the Clock.

The Assembly reassembled after Lunch at Half Past Two of the Clock, Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta) in the Chair.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar (Salem and Coimbatore cum North Arcot Non-Muhammadan Rural) Sir, this is a Bill which tries to enact and consolidate the law about Government securities. The Act of 1920 applies both to the centre and to the provinces and they want to separate the law as regards the centre. In this matter I have only a few observations to make. I wish the Honourable the Finance Member had circulated to us all the opinions which he says he has received. These opinions have not been circulated to us.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Sir, I understand they have been circulated. The previous motion was made only in August 1943 and after circulation the opinions must have been received fairly recently and circulated to Members of the House quite recently.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: As far as I remember—I am open to correction—we have not received the opinions. The proper time to circulate them is shortly before the Bills come up for discussion in the House. If they are circulated years or months ahead they do not serve any purpose. Therefore I request that copies may again be circulated to us, at least to those who may require them.

Coming to the details I will refer to clauses 9, 10 and 12. Clause 9 refers to summary procedure on death of holder of Government securities not exceeding five thousand rupees face value, and clause 10 deals with Government securities not exceeding five thousand rupees face value belonging to minor or insane person. What they seek to do under the summary procedure is, that the bank straightaway comes to a decision as to the person to whom these securities should go. What he said about notice being given to actual claimants is not being followed here. And then in summary determination, by the bank,

of title to Government securities in cases of dispute they take evidence and they give notice under clause 12. I do not like that the bank should be made the final authority to determine the claims in cases of dispute. My own submission will be that even in cases of less than five thousand rupees,—which after all is a big sum according to the general standard of this country,—and as regards minors and insane persons where we have no people to look after their rights, the bank should never take upon itself the duty of determining the claims and making a summary order. I think that would be a real hardship upon the middle and the poorer classes.

Then I come to clause 24 which limits the time of limitation to six years, where no shorter period of limitation is fixed by any law for the time being in force. If there is a shorter period that period of limitation will hold good, otherwise it will be six years. So that, if there is a minor of two years whose father has died leaving some Government securities for the minor son, some one gets an order on his behalf and the minor's case goes by default. He is unable to represent the matter. According to the ordinary law he has got a different right. But today that right of the minor is curtailed and the period of limitation is six years from the date it is made final. This works hardship on the minors of this country. We know that people here, even educated people, are not well acquainted with the law, and the law of securities is surely not known to many people in this country, even among investors it is not known very well. In these circumstances I think the provisions of this Bill are too drastic, and I think the Bill requires amendments to this and other clauses. With these remarks I support the motion for sending the Bill to a Select Committee.

Mr. Hoosenbhoy A. Lalljee (Bombay Central Division Muhammadan Rural). Sir, on this occasion I feel very much the absence of our friend, Maulvi Abdul Rashid Chaudhury, to whom tributes were rightly paid this morning and who always studied almost all the Bills and more particularly Bills of this kind with care and thoroughness but who unfortunately was never put on by Government on any select committees. Sir, I generally agree with the remarks of Honourable the Finance Member just made. I think this is a very important Bill. In the first place certain powers are given to the Reserve Bank. We know that bank is guided by its Directors and things left to them are to be adjusted according to their directions. Here is a property right which Government desire to give to some extent to the Reserve Bank, and I ask what powers do Government keep for themselves to see whether the justice that is supposed to be done by the officers of the Reserve Bank is done correctly? They are to some extent taking away the powers even of the court. Why should they do that at this stage when people are freely buying Government paper to an extent that never happened before? Only last year nearly 240 crores of loans were subscribed, and it is now that we are told that these powers may be given to the Reserve Bank.

With regard to the notice that has to be given to claimants, we find that a letter is to be written by the Bank to each claimant of whom the Bank has knowledge. The Bank is supposed to know or has to find out—I do not know through what agency—who are the claimants. They would perhaps send a notice to the heirs of the deceased—by ordinary post not by registered letter—at the last station at which the owner of the loan was supposed to have been residing, or in the Circle in which the loan was issued. The most wonderful part of it is that it would be advertised in the Government Gazette. I assure you, Sir, that a majority of my Honourable friends here, and, if I may be permitted to say, a good number in the Treasury Benches, do not go through all the pages of the Government Gazette. Then it is to be printed in the English language when we know full well that a vast majority of the people of this country are ignorant and illiterate. Courts have often made remarks that many orders in the Defence of India Act are published in the Government Gazette in English with the result that poor people do not know anything about those. I urge that this is an important thing and due care and attention should

[Mr Hooseinbhoy A Lalljee]

be given to this point. When matters go before the Court, it will issue subpoenas, etc., and will see that the claimants appear before the Court.

Then, Sir, we find that the Reserve Bank may appoint any one of its officers to adjudicate the claim. What is to be status and qualifications of the officer it is not stated. He may be an officer put in position by the Board of Directors owing to certain circumstances and he may be even called a 'senior' officer, but there is no grade by which we can judge. Sir, in even small criminal cases—we have Inspector of Police, or Sub-Inspector of Police, or, as the Honourable the Finance Member would always like to say, Inspector of Excise or Inspector of Income-tax. But for this purpose the Bank may, in their sweet will, appoint any of their officers to adjudicate these claims. What do we find next? This officer will take such evidence as he may like or may take such either on oath or on an affidavit. And that is all that is provided. It is very essential, Sir, that when a claimant puts in his claim he should be put on oath, his evidence should be taken according to the provisions laid down in the Evidence Act. Nothing of that sort is provided. Even when the Bank wants a Magistrate or some other officer to take any evidence, he may do it as he likes—either just record the evidence, or, if he likes, put him on oath. But what is very important to note is, that procedure will remain when the other party is not there and yet the case will be decided on this evidence. It sounds something like a summary Court Martial on field. No provision whatsoever has been made to safeguard the interests of the claimant, or to safeguard the interests of a minor or a widow or insane.

Then, Sir, we find that a limit of six years has been laid down. After that the man can whistle! The fact about disposal may or may not be known to all the claimants. Of course, six months' notice is to be given, but how is he to know that it has been disposed of? I know—and I am very glad to see my Honourable friend, Mr Sethna here—that even with regard to litigation in court the litigation goes on for years together and many a time it so happens that all the parties do not know what is going on. People living in districts and in far off places will have much less chances to know whether an enquiry in Reserve Bank has taken place or is going on and that it is to be disposed of or has been disposed of within six months.

With regard to a minor or insane person, here again authority has been given to the Bank Officer to give it to a person whom he thinks fit, this is very serious. But, on the other hand, great care has been taken that if the matter was taken before the Court, the Reserve Bank will place those securities with the official trustee. If a case goes to the Court, when parties concerned are summoned and lawyers appear on behalf of the various parties, then in that case, in order not to be involved in the litigation, as they put it, the Reserve Bank will apply to the court and put the securities of the minor, insane, etc., with the Court official—known, I think as the Court Receiver or Trustee or Administrator. But so long as there is no litigation, the officer of the Bank can appoint anybody and hand the securities over to him. Then, Sir, we find that if there is a *bona fide* claimant and if he is called upon to take the securities, what conditions have been imposed upon him?

"The Bank may require the person in whose favour the order is to be made execute a bond with one or more sureties in such form as may be prescribed or to furnish security not exceeding twice the value of the subject-matter of the order."

If a poor man has got Rs 3,000 left to him, he must find Rs 6,000 in order to satisfy the Bank and get that money—i.e., twice the sum.

Coming to the clause regarding penalty. I do not know how my Honourable friend, the Finance Member, can treat any officer of the Reserve Bank—in whose appointment he has no voice whatsoever—as public officer. The penalty clause reads thus:

"Penalty—(1) If any person for the purpose of obtaining for himself or for any other person any title to a Government security, makes to any authority under this Act in any application made under this Act or in the course of any inquiry undertaken in pursuance of this Act any statement which is false and which he either knows to be false or does with both

(2) No Court shall take cognisance of any offence under subsection (1) except on the complaint of the Bank."

Which means if I find that somebody has made a false claim I cannot proceed against him. The Bank must do that. Further if it chooses, the Bank may make any complaint and where a public officer makes a complaint, whatever the result, he is not responsible for the consequences.

We may be induced to give these powers to Government officials because we have power to bring their actions before the Legislature, but with regard to the officers of the Reserve Bank, I am sure the reply will be similar to what the War Transport Member said about the Port Trust being an independent body. Constitutionally Port Trust is an independent body. Still the Chairman is appointed by the Government, the funds are under Government control. If any such thing should happen with regard to any of the Security Duty Officers of Reserve Bank I wonder whether the President will be satisfied if the Honourable the Finance Member said that the matter had nothing to do with us. The Reserve Bank is an independent body—it is a shareholders' body, and the Directors are elected, but we know how their elections take place. Coterries are formed. Proxies are collected and if you scrutinise fairly, some Directors have made a monopoly of getting into that body. It is a fact that Government have not been able to put that right. They have tried to divide the votes but it is as fact as clear as daylight that coterries are formed. Thousands of rupees are spent, a lot of influence of every kind is used to get proxies and they can get in and they appoint, nominate and suggest officers, including even the Governor and the Deputy Governor.

In these circumstances I do feel that Government is not rendering a service to the large number of people who are now subscribing to the Government paper. My friend, the Honourable the Finance Member, could not have got the Rs 240 crores only from the rich. The poor also have subscribed. He may have got expert opinion from Banks and Chambers of Commerce and the rich people. But Government is not all for those people.

I do admit that this Bill has been brought up with all good intention to help the commercial community and the large dealers but as it is, it is against the interests of the people and especially a large number of the poor people. Besides, the middle class people have not received sufficient protection. I can say that I did not receive any intimation about this Bill coming up today and if this Bill has been circularised for opinion and opinions have come in then they are very old and probably only from bankers, Chambers of Commerce and capitalists. When you want the poorer people to subscribe, surely much more is needed. Many people now know that investment in Government paper is good. They have come by this through friends and even by the advice of officials. It is for their interest that I do not see the point in all this haste of giving this power to the Reserve Bank. There is only one apparent reason—and that is that the Bank and the Secretary of State may not be taken to the Courts. At the moment, they are in fact being taken to the Court as necessary parties. I do not know whether the Bank and the Secretary of State are paid the cost from the other side ultimately because there is something like security there. The question of lawyers' cost and the privilege of obtaining such cost come before everything else and the mighty lawyers have made it quite clear that the cost must be taken first whether the parties become beggars or are starving. Of course, the only trouble would be that one of the officers of the Reserve Bank may have to go and ask some solicitor to help. To avoid this little trouble all this does not justify the introduction of this Bill. Neither does it justify to help the capitalists. Well-to-do people will immediately go to the Court and take letters of succession, probate, and obtain them. It is only poor who are slow and who require to be protected. I think the intention is to facilitate matters. As such I do appeal to the Honourable the Finance Member to take that important point of view of the poor of giving them sufficient notice by Registered post and by advertisement in the vernacular papers in the districts and towns and furthermore to make it compulsory that the evidence should be taken on oath according to Evidence Act and that by a proper and fit person.

[Mr Hoosenbhoy A. Lalljee]

Furthermore, in all the Acts we pass, the rules and regulations are placed before the House. I should like to know whether the rules that are to be framed by the Reserve Bank or the Governor or the Directors will be placed before the Government for sanction, and if so, will those regulations be placed before this House for information and will this House be given an opportunity

3 PM to bring their views to the notice of the Government. I am afraid, Sir, constituted as the Reserve Bank is, probably it will not be possible to make such a provision. If that is so, Sir, I say that no power should be given to the Reserve Bank, howsoever great it may be, howsoever great the people who are its Directors may be. You have got to consider that the rights of the individual cannot be entrusted so lightly to anybody but to a proper officer of the Government whose conduct can be looked into by the highest judiciary and also by this Legislature.

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Guntur cum Nellore Non-Muhammadian Rural). Sir, when at first I heard that this bill was going to come up for discussion, I felt that a man like me would have very little interest in it but as I listened to this discussion I found that even that class of people whose interest I have been trying specially to make my own are also interested in it and their interests are likely to be jeopardised if these two sections, Sec 9 and 10, were to be passed as they are here. If, as my friend, Mr Hoosenbhoy Lalljee, said only rich people, very rich people, are involved and are interested in this matter, they may be expected possibly to know their own business, lodge their claims within the particular prescribed period of six months, get their claims registered properly and thus safeguard their interests. But as it is now, whether we like it or not, millions and millions of peasants in different provinces have become obliged to purchase these Government Bonds since the beginning of this war. We know under what obnoxious circumstances large numbers of these people have been obliged to purchase these bonds. I should not like to say that the peasants have "purchased" them. They were simply forced upon them. I know for a fact that even today things are going on in villages in different parts of the country which cannot bear description in this House. Government officials, from the highest down to the ordinary policeman are going about forcing peasants to purchase these bonds and if they do not, very often unpleasant results follow. There was one case within my own knowledge where the day after the peasant concerned refused to purchase these bonds he was visited by the police with an order to show cause why he should not be bound over for good conduct and our people had to carry on a strenuous agitation before the peasant concerned could be helped to get out of the clutches of the police. Such things happen in different parts of the country. It is under such circumstances that peasants are obliged to purchase these bonds. Even grain purchasing officers are going about the villages forcing peasants to sell their grain, even when they do not have enough for themselves and for their own family consumption. They insist that a particular percentage of the price that is likely to be paid for the grains must be accepted only in terms of Government Bonds. What is to happen to those people who, whether they like it or not, are forced to possess these Government Bonds. Are they expected to know the intricacies of this law, are they expected to know where and how they are to lodge their claims and make sure that they get their money? Is it seriously argued by the Honourable the Finance Member that our ordinary peasants are so capable of looking after their own interests as to be able to take advantage of this particular provision which provides only for summary procedure and which does not leave any room at all for the Evidence Act to come in or the ordinary law of the land to take its own course to protect the interests of these people. It may be that a peasant holds bonds worth one, two or three hundred rupees but that is a big sum for him. He certainly cannot afford to allow his claim on these small bonds to be dismissed summarily by the Reserve Bank of India. After

all what is this Reserve Bank of India. It is not a representative body of the people. This house anyhow has no control over it. Is it at least a quasi-judicial body? Was this house given that assurance when it was constituted?—a quasi-judicial body with powers to exercise its judicial functions. Is there any sort of control to see that the Reserve Bank exercises these quasi-judicial functions in a really judicial manner? None at all. Under these circumstances, I think, it is inadvisable on the part of the Government that they should come forward with this sort of Bill proposing to give summary powers to the Reserve Bank of India, especially when they, of their own accord, have been forcing millions and millions of peasant to become holders of Government bonds. Therefore, Sir, I very strongly oppose these two sections and I trust that the Honourable the Finance Member will see the force of our arguments and try to make the necessary amendments so that it would be possible for the holders of these Government bonds to get proper justice if and when any of them were to die and leave his minors or others to claim the benefit from these bonds.

Mr. Manu Subedar (Indian Merchants' Chamber and Bureau Indian Commerce) A glance at this Bill and its perusal does not make clear to me certain points, which I would like to mention and which I trust the Select Committee will take into account in finally shaping this Bill.

There was a practice for many years, a very salutary practice, which Government interiered with some years ago, *vis*, that when a holder of a Government security wanted to have a new certificate issued, such a new certificate was issued. It was presumed by these holders that in future it was a clean document unaffected by any error in the transfer by the previous holders and the cancelled document need not involve any loss to him. This very salutary protection to the holders of Government securities was interfered with and scaled down with the result (and the Government, I maintain, acted against their own interests in this) that small holders of Government securities, who had invested in Government bonds the small savings which they had made, had not thought of any question being raised with regard to the previous holders and the validity of the transfers made to them. This was an absolute necessity and I urge that this also is a necessity now. I understand that in certain loans new issues are preferred by the public, because of this that a new issue is a clean document and there will be no question of flaws in any transfers or as to their validity. As I said, this is a facility which the public enjoyed. It is possible that Government occasionally may have had losses on account of some isolated cases arising. The Government's contention was "we cannot pay the same money twice over" but here was a *bonafide* holder who, in response to your own appeals, to save and put in Government paper, purchased this Government paper. He belongs to a class which deserves protection. He belongs to a class which can least scrutinise one of the old instruments or promissory notes on which there are a dozen endorsements. He is not in a position to go into the validity of each of these endorsements. Such a man must be saved and I say that even if it costs something to the Government, it is in their own interest to provide facilities by which such a holder can get a clean and a new certificate and no liability with regard to the past endorsements. What machinery Government should then set up in order to safeguard themselves against fraud or genuine legal difficulties in previous transfers, it is for the Government themselves to devise and I should like to know as a matter of information from the Honourable the Finance Member whether in this Bill the power intended to be given to the Reserve Bank covers this particular point also.

Mr. G. Rangiah Naidu (Madras City Non-Muhammadan Urban) Mr Deputy President, as my friend, Mr Ranga, said "Who is this bank?" Has it got any representation from the people who purchase war bonds of ten rupees or twenty rupees or fifty rupees or hundred rupees? No. The rich

[Mr G Rangish Naidu]

people are represented in the Bank—the directors are rich people the Governor is a rich man. But the man who takes small war bonds, the agriculturist and the poor traders are not represented at all. I have seen in the country, if you go to the villages and see, how the agriculturists and the petty people are forced to purchase these war bonds. These poor people represent 95 per cent of the persons purchasing war bonds only 5 per cent are rich and they are ruling over this Bank and over the destinies of the remaining 95 per cent who are still continuing to take these bonds. The rich people are not bothered and worried to purchase these bonds. For instance, I may say that when I was here last November my son was asked to purchase these war bonds. He does not hold any property he is a medical man working in a village, helping villagers where there is no medical aid, he was asked to contribute money and he said "It is impossible, I am not a holder of any property, I am a petty doctor and have been helping the poor people in this village. How can I contribute money to war bond? If I am pressed to buy them, my father is there in the Central Assembly and you please write to him. If he asks me to pay money, I will be prepared to pay, however I can manage." Then they told him "Mr Ramchandra Naidu, if you do not buy war bonds, we do not care, but do not spoil others who are buying do not do any propaganda against us." Such is the case in the country and such are the people who hold these securities and who must be helped. These two sections in the Bill must be eliminated, and unless they are entirely removed there will be no salvation for the people who are paying money against these security bonds.

Mr. D. P. Sethna (Government of India Nominated Official) Sir, I crave your indulgence as I am addressing this august Assembly for the first time. Before I proceed to speak on the provisions of the Bill which have been impugned by some of the previous speakers, may I make a brief personal reference? It was in February 1942, when I was appointed to report on this Bill that I went to Calcutta and saw Sir James Taylor and Mr Deshmukh, as he then was, and had discussions with them. I went to the office of the Central Debt section and had an insight into the way in which the securities were renewed, after the Central Debt section came to Bombay, I went and worked at the Reserve Bank Office for weeks and weeks, going through files of cases which had given trouble in the past to the Reserve Bank and the Controller of the Currency in administering the public debt. I had various long discussions with Sir James Taylor on the subject, and it is a matter of great regret to me, as I am sure it must be to the Members of this House, that Sir James Taylor is not with us today to hear the discussion on a Bill which was so near to his heart and to which he had contributed so much.

As to the provisions of the Bill which have been impugned by some of the previous speakers, sections 9 and 10 relate to the summary adjudication by the Reserve Bank in case of holders of securities not exceeding five thousand rupees in value, and in cases of minors and lunatics, I am astonished that the criticism should have been made, when sections 19 and 20 of the Indian Securities Act, 1920, which is the law of the land, expressly deal with these contingencies in a similar manner.

The other criticism which has been levelled against the provisions of this Bill is that the Bill is intended for the protection of the rich people. Nothing of the kind. It is primarily intended for the protection of the poor people who have not the means to enforce their legal rights and who have been deprived of their securities and the interest on their securities for years and years under vague notices and stop orders which have not been followed upon. The result has been, as I have seen from the files which I have gone through, that the original holders have died, their children have died, and it is after ten or fifteen years when the High Court or the Privy Council has decided the case that the securities have again come into the hands of the rightful person. It was in order to provide for cases like these

that Sir James Taylor had it in mind that the Reserve Bank should have the power, in the same way as the revenue courts now have, of summarily deciding as between the rival claimants to Government securities to whom the security belongs, leaving it to the aggrieved party to go to the court if he is so advised. I am surprised that section 12 has been pointed out to this House without referring to sections 19 and 20 which are in the Bill and which provide that no recognition by the Reserve Bank of a person as the holder of a Government security, and no order made by the Bank under this Act shall deprive any person of his right to go to the court. As the Finance Member has pointed out, when he introduced the Bill today and asked for its reference to the Select Committee, the decision of the Reserve Bank is hedged round with various safeguards and if you will please refer to sections 12, 13, 14 and 16, you will see that section 12 provides that if the Bank is of opinion that a doubt exists as to the title to a Government security, it may proceed to determine the person who shall for the purposes of the Bank be deemed to be the person entitled thereto. It presupposes that a claim has been made to the Reserve Bank by X or Y against Z or A and that he is entitled to the bond and not somebody else. It is on this that the Reserve Bank gives notice to all the persons concerned to appear before it. The Bank shall give notice in writing to each claimant of whom it has knowledge, and the Bank shall give notice in writing to each claimant of the result of the determination so made and it is only on the expiry of six months from the issue of the last notice that the Bank may make an order vesting in the person, found by the Bank to be entitled to the security, the security and any unpaid interest thereon. After this any party who is disgruntled or who is dissatisfied with the decision of the Reserve Bank has got a perfect right to go to a court of law and to apply that he is the holder of the security and not somebody else. A further provision has been made in order that the security may not remain for years and years with the Reserve Bank earning no interest. The Bank has the right to give the security to the Official Trustee of the Province so that the Court dealing with the case could direct that the interest on the security could, for the time being when the suit is pending, be utilised in favour of the party whom the court would consider to be *prima facie* entitled to the security.

As to Mr. Lalljee's point about the service of the notices, that is a matter which the Select Committee will certainly consider. This, however, will not entail any real difficulty because the notice will only be given to those persons who have written to the Bank and who *prima facie* would seem to be concerned with the security.

As to the officer of the Reserve Bank who is to adjudicate on the matter, that also is a matter for the Select Committee to consider. If the honourable gentlemen had cared to read the opinions which have been circulated they would have seen that the opinions disclose a wide approval to the principles underlying the Bill. (*An Honourable Member* They have not been circulated.) I am told that they have been circulated after 1943. It was in August, 1943, that the Finance Member introduced the Bill and I am told that the opinions which have been received, Nos 1 to 14, 22 and 23, have been circulated. If they have not been read by the Members, it is their own look-out.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Come with us to the jail and you will know.

Mr. D. P. Sethna: As I have stated, the whole object of the vesting order is to protect the poor holder of Government securities and not the rich banks. It is they who will be benefited by a summary adjudication by the Reserve Bank of matters with which the Bank is not concerned at all, as between claimants A and B.

As regards sections 26 and 27, it has been rightly provided that if the Bank feels that it has been cheated by any party it should apply to the Criminal Court for the prosecution of the offender.

[Mr D P Sethna]

Another point made by Mr Hoosenbhoy Lalljee is that before the Bank adjudicates in the matter, the Bank may require the execution of a bond with one or two sureties to be held at the disposal of the Bank, for an amount twice the value of the security. Surely, Sir, that is merely signing the bond and not furnishing the security. Even if a man has Rs 3,000, as Mr Hoosenbhoy has said, he can surely give a bond for six thousand.

Mr. Hoosenbhoy A Lalljee. Will the Bank accept that?

Mr. D. P. Sethna: The man has to show that he is worth six thousand or whatever the amount may be.

The most surprising part of the criticism was that the Bank decides the matter and that there is no appeal. I submit once again that that criticism has proceeded from not reading the Bill carefully apart from the opinions. Section 19 points out the legal effect of orders made by the Bank. I would draw attention to the words "subject only to a personal liability to the rightful owner of the security for money had and received on his account."

As to the criticism of Mr Manu Subedar and his reference to the Privy Council judgment, the Privy Council judgment is in favour of Government and the Act does not make any change in the situation. As I understand, the Government is not prepared to give up the indemnity which is implied according to the Privy Council judgment.

If you look at the opinions received, they show a wide approval of the principles of the Bill. There are criticisms as to details which it is the province of the Select Committee to go into and the Select Committee, I would assure this House, will carefully consider every point that has been raised in the opinions received.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman. The last speaker has traversed most of the points which were raised in the course of the debate and I do not think that there is much that I can add to that.

As my Honourable friend, Mr Sethna, just now pointed out in his very competent maiden speech, this is not a matter of hasty or ill-considered action on the part of the Government. It is a measure which has been under very long and careful consideration in consultation with the Bank and on which competent legal opinion has been availed of. There is no desire on the part of the Government to make any drastic or unnecessary changes in the law but I am sure my Honourable friend, Mr Hoosenbhoy Lalljee, will recognise that if you leave things as they are, you are not really serving the interests which he claims to be anxious to protect. The present position is favourable to the indefinite continuance of disputes in regard to Government securities. That means either that the interest is not paid out at all or that it may be paid out to the person who at the moment is most skilful in mobilising legal assistance. The object of this Bill is to secure a prompt and reasonable adjustment of these matters pending their final settlement by the competent courts. There is nothing here to oust the courts of law. No right is being taken from anybody which he has at present. What is being done, as the last speaker has pointed out, is to assist the small man who cannot afford to go all the way to the High Court or the Privy Council, to assist him to get a ready decision by the Bank. After all it is the bank that has the administration of the public debt. It is the bank which has to pay the interest. As I said, the small man will now be able to go to the bank and tell his story. The bank arranges for a rapid decision of the point and enables him to draw his interest. If you do not provide this kind of remedy, then we think that you are actually weighting the scales in favour of the wealthier and the man with the greater legal advice.

Mr. Hoosenbhoy A. Lalljee: To whom do you entrust? That is the question.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: It has always been my bitter experience to find that when we proposed that Government officials should do a thing, there was the utmost suspicion and it was suggested that the only virtue and wisdom lay anywhere than in the minds and in the possession of Government officials. I am surprised to find it is now suggested that the only real

repository of justice and wisdom is a Government official. The reason why the Reserve Bank is mentioned is that the Reserve Bank is the machinery through which the public debt is administered. The Reserve Bank is the person who actually pays the interest.

Mr. Hosenbhoj A. Laljee: They are cashiers and there is a great difference between being cashiers and administrators.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Baisman: Oh no, the Reserve Bank is more than a cashier. The point is this. Why should you create any further machinery in between your Public Debt Administrator and your courts? What you want to do is to provide a simple and summary adjudication or settlement of issues pending references to a court. You therefore provide that the organisation which is in daily contact with these matters, which has most experience, which is continually engaged in these things and which has, as a matter of fact, to make the payment, you provide that that organisation shall conduct a provisional inquiry into the matter and shall make a vesting order until such time as the matter may be threshed out in the courts. I do not see how that lends itself to any of the criticisms or suspicions to which Mr. Hosenbhoj Laljee has given voice. But in any case, I understand it to be the feeling of the House that this Bill should go to the Select Committee. The principle of the Bill has been widely accepted and we can leave these matters to be discussed by the Select Committee who will, I have no doubt, do full justice to them.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): The question is

"That the Bill to consolidate and amend the law relating to Government securities issued by the Central Government and to the management by the Reserve Bank of India of the public debt of the Central Government be referred to a Select Committee consisting of Mr. Muhammad Nauman, Mr. Muhammad Asghar Ali, Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari, Mr. T. Chapman Mortimer, Khan Bahadur Miran Ghulam Kadir Muhammad Shahba, Khan Bahadur Sheikh Habibur Rahman, Dr. Sir Ratanj Dinkshaw Dalal, Mr. D. P. Sethna and the Mover and that the number of members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the Committee shall be five."

The motion was adopted.

THE FACTORIES (SECOND AMENDMENT) BILL

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar (Labour Member): Sir, I move

"That the Bill further to amend the Factories Act, 1934, (Second Amendment) be referred to a Select Committee consisting of Nawab Siddique Ali Khan, Khan Bahadur Shaikh Fazl-i-Haq Piracha, Mr. R. B. Gupta, Mr. A. C. Inskip, Sir Vithal N. Chandavarkar, Rao Bahadur N. Siva Raj, Mr. N. M. Joshi, Mr. D. S. Joshi and the Mover and that the number of members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the Committee shall be five."

The provisions of the Bill fall into two parts and I think it will be desirable from the point of view of simplicity in the matter of presentation if I explained to the House the provisions of the Bill in two separate forms.

Part I of the Bill deals with compensatory holidays for the loss of compulsory holidays. Members will realise that in section 35 of the Factories Act it is obligatory upon the owner or manager of the factory to give one compulsory holiday to every adult worker in the factory. This provision which is contained in section 35 is subject to the provisions contained in sections 43 and 44. Sections 43 and 44 provide that the Inspector of Factories may permit exemptions being granted to the manager of the factory or factory owner from the obligations imposed by section 35. The view that is taken is this that when such exemptions should be granted, they ought to be compensated by other holidays, equivalent in number. Health and efficiency of the worker requires that he should have the requisite number of holidays which are prescribed by law. The Act, as it stands, makes no such provisions for compensatory holidays. Consequently, clause 2 of the Bill has been introduced for the purpose of removing this lacuna. It will now be open for the Provincial Governments to make rules subject to certain adjustments that wherever exemptions have been granted under section 35, compensatory holidays of the equivalent amount shall be granted to the workmen. This is the first part of the provisions of the Bill.

[Dr B R Ambedkar]

Coming to the second part of the Bill, the provisions contained therein deal with the question of holidays with pay. It might be desirable at the outset to state to the House the origin of this part of the Bill. Many members of the House will recall that in 1936 the International Labour Conference passed a convention relating to the holidays with pay. The Government of India, which was represented at that International Labour Conference, was not prepared to accept the convention and to ratify it. A Government Resolution was moved in the Assembly on the 26th July, 1937, proposing the non-acceptance of the convention. The Resolution was carried. But while the Government did not find itself in a position to ratify the convention, the Member in charge of the Resolution said that the Government would explore and examine the possibilities of giving effect to the convention, if not wholly, at any rate, in part and undertook to have consultation with the Provincial Governments and all the Associations representing the employers and employees to find out to what extent there was a general agreement in the matter of this convention. Part II of the provisions which relate to holidays with pay are the result of this examination and exchange of views which have been going on over a considerable number of years.

Turning to the Bill itself, it will be seen that the Bill applies to factories and it applies not to all the factories, but to perennial factories only. The Bill undoubtedly is limited in its scope as compared to the provisions contained in the convention which was adopted in 1936. While it is limited, I think it is a beginning which should be welcome. With regard to the other provisions, I think it will be better if I divide my observations in four parts so as to cover separately the four points which legislation concerning holidays with pay must necessarily deal with.

1 Length of holiday 2 Qualifying conditions for a right to a holiday 3 Limiting conditions 4 Pay during holiday. With regard to the first point, namely, length of a holiday, this is a matter which is dealt with in the new section 49-B which the Bill proposes to add to the Factories Act. According to this section, the total holiday is to be on seven consecutive days for a worker who has put in a continuous service for one year. It might be asked as to why we have taken seven days and not more. The reply to that is that in fixing this period of seven days, we have followed the provisions contained in the Geneva convention of 1936 which laid down six days as the limit of the holiday. To that we have added a seventh day which is a compulsory weekly rest granted to a worker under section 35 of the Factories Act. With regard to the question of qualifying conditions laying down as to when a worker will be entitled to claim a seven days holiday, the provisions contained in the Bill are as follows. As a matter of fact, there is really only one condition and that is that the worker must have put in a period of twelve months continuous service. There is no other condition. With regard to the question as to what is continuous service of twelve months, the Bill provides for what are called interruptions and declares that certain interruptions shall not invalidate the claim for holidays with pay. The interruptions which are mentioned in the Bill are interruptions arising out of sickness, accident, authorised leave, lock-out period and a strike period provided the strike is legal. There is also another provision in the Bill which relates to the same subject and that is the question of involuntary unemployment caused by the desire of the factory owner to close the factory. We have limited that to a period of 30 days. If the involuntary unemployment caused by the factory manager does not extend beyond 30 days, then that would not invalidate the claim of the worker for his right to holidays with pay. It might be necessary perhaps to mention why we have prescribed only 30 days. The explanation is this. Holidays with pay must necessarily take into account the ability of the manager or the factory owner to pay and the view that is taken in the Bill is that if the manager or the factory owner is obliged to close his factory for more than 30 days, then I think it is legitimate to presume that he has really not been prospering as well as he ought to and that he is, therefore, not in a position to pay the cost for holidays with pay. But if the involuntary period does not exceed 30 days,

then the presumption is that he is still able to bear the cost and should bear The Bill also provides for limited condition with regard to holidays with pay and that limited condition relates to the question of accumulation of holidays The Bill provides that a worker who has been qualified to earn his holidays may be entitled to accumulate holidays for two years and that is for a total period of 14 days

Coming to the question of pay during holidays, there are several points to which I should like to draw the attention of the House The first is that although the total period of the holiday is seven, only six are declared to be paid holidays The seventh, as I said, is really a day of weekly rest provided under section 35 With regard to the seventh day, the Bill does not make it obligatory upon the employer to pay for it But at the same time the Bill does not take away the right of the employee to demand payment, if as a result of his contract of service that holiday was due to him as a paid holiday It is really left to be governed by the contract of service

The third point is with regard to the payment to be made for these six holidays The rule that we have adopted in the Bill is a rough, and I believe, an equitable rule and it is this that a worker is to be paid at a rate equivalent to the average of his earnings during the three preceding months barring overtime I believe that is an equitable principle The Bill also provides that in order to enable a workman to take his holiday, some facilities should be given him in order to have some cash with him on the day on which he proposes to start on his holiday Consequently provision is made in the Bill that half the dues which are to be paid to the workman going on holiday shall be paid to him at the start

Another matter which is relevant to this, and is also important, is this The Bill proposes to exempt certain factories from its operation if it is found that a factory has a system of holidays with pay which is substantially similar to the one provided in the Bill and about whose satisfactory character the Provincial Government is able to certify The object underlying this clause is that if there is a voluntary arrangement between the employer and the worker whereby the worker is given the same privileges which we are providing in the law, the view taken by the Bill is that in so amicable an arrangement it is unnecessary for the law to enter

Sir, these are the main provisions of the Bill There are two other matters to which I should like to make a reference before I sit down The first is the question of a discharge of a workman by the employer to prevent him from earning his holiday The second question is the employer inducing a workman not to take his holiday although he has earned it These are questions which I frankly admit are not being provided for in the Bill Not that Government are not aware that such questions may arise, but the view of Government is that at the present stage, at any rate, there is no reason to suppose that such contingencies will arise If experience shows that such cases do become usual it would be time then to amend the Act to stop their recurrence For the moment the view I hold is that the provisions of the Bill are sufficient for the purposes which it has in view, namely, to grant holidays with pay to factory workers

Sir, I move

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta) Motion moved

That the Bill further to amend the Factories Act, 1934, (*Second Amendment*) be referred to a Select Committee consisting of Nawab Siddique Ali Khan, Khan Bahadur Shaikh Fazlul Haq Piracha, Mr. R. B. Gupta, Mr. A. C. Jaisin, Sir Vithal N. Chandavarkar, Rao Bahadur N. Siva Raj, Mr. N. M. Joshi, Mr. D. S. Joshi and the Mover and that the number of members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the Committee shall be five

Mr. O. C. Miller (Bengal European) Sir, this Group supports the motion for Select Committee and the principle of holidays with pay But there are two comments which I should like to make at this stage, following the lines of the Honourable Member, the first being on the question of the compensatory holiday The present position under the Factories Act is that if a worker is ordered to work on a Sunday he is entitled to a compensatory holiday in the three days preceding or in the three days following that Sunday, except under the

[Mr C C Miller]

very exceptional circumstances which are conditioned by sections 43 and 44 of the Act. The effect of this amendment of the Act will be to say to the workman, "Well, you shall have your compensatory holiday, but when you will get that compensatory holiday is a matter of convenience. You will not get it necessarily at any particular time." And I venture to think that the Act as it stands is a much more realistic approach to this problem and that the amendment does not place any worker in a better position than he was before. And I suggest, therefore, that that part of the Bill might well be omitted.

I now turn to the more important question of holidays with pay. As I have said, we support the principle of holidays with pay but we do not support the principle of consecutive holidays with pay in every district throughout India. There may be parts of India in which consecutive holidays are appropriate for labour, but they are certainly not appropriate to all parts of India, and in particular to eastern India. The situation in eastern India is that our labour is very largely immigrant labour from other provinces and that labour remains very largely agricultural. It is a factor which goes right through Indian industrial life and it is a very big factor which cannot be overlooked. Now, regularly every year or two, labour seeks to return to its village for village work, village ceremonies and agricultural work, and that custom has grown up and is accepted both by the workers and by the employers. That is leave, and I would suggest that a differentiation should be drawn between leave and holidays. Now, again in eastern India there are a considerable number of holidays throughout the year, religious holidays for both communities, and it is very customary that on these holidays factories are closed down and labour has a day off. And, moreover, in my part of the world, there has grown a custom of paying labour for certain holidays. I should like to impress that on the Honourable Member because there are now a considerable number of holidays with pay, but they are not consecutive, they are staggered. In many cases these holidays exceed the number of six suggested in this Bill and in some cases substantially exceed them. Therefore if the Labour Department is going to insist on consecutive holidays then you are putting your employer in a position where he must say to his workmen, "I am very sorry, but I must abandon my previous principle of giving you holidays with pay, because the Labour Department in its wisdom has decreed otherwise. So, instead of getting six or eight or even twelve holidays with pay staggered in a year you must in future have six consecutive holidays with pay. Moreover, most or all of these holidays which I have given have been unconditional, you six consecutive holidays are going to be conditional." In fact, the new deal which the Labour Department is proposing in these circumstances will be very much worse than the deal which labour has been getting in the past. And I do very earnestly request the Honourable Member to consider that where custom has established a certain practice which is in no way inferior to the practice which he is now seeking to institute and which is very often a far better practice both from the point of view of labour and of employers of labour, he will not introduce measures which upset it. Because, I am perfectly certain that if this system is introduced in certain parts of Bengal and as a necessary corollary the old system is withdrawn there will be a very considerable labour unrest and resentment at the innovation.

[At this stage, Mr President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) resumed the Chair.]

I, therefore, hope that staggered holidays and consecutive holidays will be treated on an equal basis in the Bill when it has passed through the hands of the Select Committee.

(It was Four of the Clock.)

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT

MISUSE OF THE NATIONAL WAR FRONT ORGANIZATION BY MALIK KHIZAR HAYAT KHAN TIWANA, LEADER OF THE PUNJAB BRANCH

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan (Rohilkund and Kumaon Divisions, Muhammadan Rural). Sir, I beg to move that this Assembly do adjourn to discuss a matter of urgent public importance, namely, the failure of the Governor

General in Council to prevent and stop the misuse of the National War Front organisation by the Provincial Leader of the Punjab Branch, Malik Khizar Hayat Khan Tiwana, who has been utilizing the National War Front Organisation for propaganda in favour of and collection of funds for a political party—"the Zamindara League"—thereby creating a great deal of hostility amongst a large section of people against the National War Front

Sir, there are three allegations which are made in this adjournment motion firstly, that the National War Front organization is not being used for the purpose for which it was intended, secondly, that it is being utilized by the leader of the National War Front in the Punjab for political purposes of his own party, and, thirdly, that this has eliminated the sympathy and the support of a large section of people in the Punjab from the National War Front organisation

Sir, this organization was inaugurated by the then Viceroy, Lord Linlithgow, in March 1942. This organisation, according to him, was to be 'non-political and non-communal' in the sense that no propaganda in favour of any particular political party was to be done from the platform of the National War Front organisation, and all persons who were willing to strengthen the home front and help in the war effort, irrespective of caste or creed or their political views, were entitled to join this organisation. Sir, unfortunately, now that the war is coming to a close, there are not people wanting in this country who are making this organisation into a political party machine and those people are those who have the support and the blessings of the bureaucracy in this country. Sir, I submit that to prostitute this organisation for political purposes of a particular party, an organization which is financed and supported by public money, is a very great offence and I am sorry to relate that the Government of India have failed in their duty in stopping the misuse of this organisation.

Here I have a number of cuttings from the various newspapers of Punjab. I will not take the time of the House by reading out from newspaper reports at great length because there is very limited time at my disposal, but by giving some quotations from the speeches of Malik Khizar Hayat Khan Tiwana and others at the meetings of the National War Front, I think I will succeed in showing that the National War Front is being misused and is being used for purposes other than for which it was intended.

An Honourable Member What about Bengal?

Nawabzada Muhammad Lisquat Ali Khan Sir, in Montgomery, Malik Khizar Hayat Khan while addressing a big conference in the Cinema Hall said

"When I told Mr. Jinnah that the only alternative to the changing of the label of the present Ministry would be the promulgation of the Governor's Rule under Section 93 in the Punjab because as a result of the change of label no stable ministry would be possible in the province Mr. Jinnah was adamant and the League Leader while insisting upon the change of the label said that the promulgation of Section 93 would not matter. But as I feel that going back to the Governor's rule would not be good for the Punjab, not for the Muslims or the minorities I did not agree with Mr. Jinnah."

The statements are absolutely false. But any how I will not take up the time of the House by arguing that. What I want to show is that from the platform political speeches against a party and in favour of a particular party or a particular group of people are being made. It may be said that this was held at a Cinema Hall, it does not say what this conference was. But, Sir, it is stated here "that the Conference over which the Premier presided had been organised by the District National War Front, Montgomery." Later on it says that "two addresses were presented to the Premier at this Conference." Further, it says "A purse of Rs. 50,000 was presented to the Premier for the Zamindara League on behalf of the district at this conference."

At this very conference of the National War Front, Sir Chhottu Ram also spoke and he said

"The door of the Zamindara League has been made more wide and any one who agrees with the aims and objects of the Zamindara League, even though not what he called a 'Taxali Zamindara' could become a member of the League."

While thanking for the sum of Rs. 50,000 for a party which had served the Zamindars Sir Chhottu Ram said that he treated the amount only as a first instalment of Rs. three lakhs he expected from Montgomery, a rich district. On behalf of the Premier, he expressed

[Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan]

his appreciation of the support which the M. L. As. from that district in general and the Muslim M. L. As. in particular had given to the Ministry."

This is one conference. There was another conference held at Gujrat where a purse of Rs. 65,000 was presented to the Premier and this conference was also held by the National War Front organisation. In the course of his speech at this conference he said—

"Despite my complete agreement with the Muslim League ideals I was not allowed to remain in the League. The responsibility for the present conflict and dissensions amongst Muslims lay not with me but with those who instigated the League High Command to take this action."

Again, at the meeting which was held at Ludhiana, a similar thing happened. Malik Khizar Hayat Khan presided over the National War Front conference. A purse was presented on behalf of the Zamindara League and "the Premier was complimented on having steered clear through recent difficulties, which had resulted 'in only a few young plants having been removed from the garden of the Unionist Party' of which the Premier was described as the gardener."

An Honourable Member Is this money shared by the M. L. As.?

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: At this conference, Malik Khizar Hayat Khan "while declaring that he was absolutely justified in refusing to accept what Mr. Jinnah wanted him to do, the Premier reiterated that the only alternative to the present Ministry in the Punjab" And here I would like to invite the attention of our new Honourable the Home Member, who has come fresh after administering a province under Section 93,—this is the view of the National War Front leader of the Punjab about this rule.

"And if that happened all their schemes for the betterment of the Province and of providing facilities to those who were to return from the theatres of the war would have been thrown overboard."

I do not know what my honourable friend, Sir Francis Mudie, thinks of such meetings.

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie (Home Member) In the Punjab?

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: There was a conference at Lyallpur. This was under the National War Front. I can go on repeating ad nauseam all these speeches that the Honourable Minister has made. There are certain other things. This money for the Zamindara League is being collected in the name of the National War Front. Here I have a statement from Maulvi Muhammad Shafi Saheb, pleader, President, District Gujrat Committee and General Secretary, Anjuman Zamindaran, Ludhiana. This is published in the Zamindar of Lahore of the 14th October—

"Jo Raqmen in ke namne pesh ki jati hain woh bechare afsar kin tareh public se usool karte hain? Is ko chande ke lafs se zahur karne apni, ap ko dhoka dena hai. Humare zile men aise uqatit akbar hote hain keh intiqal azaizi ki munsoori ko liye Zamindara League ke Chandah ada karne ki qaid laga di gayi hai aur in tareh se ropayah skatth kar ke Wazir-e-Azam Saheb ko Sath hazar ki theli de kar khush kiyi gayi."

Now, Sir, here is another gentleman, Mr. Abdul Ghani, B.A., from Jullundur who also makes these allegations.

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar (Supply Member) What does all that mean?

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: It means that all the money that is being collected is being collected by force from the people by the permanent officials of the Government and all this money is presented in the name of the Zamindara League at the meetings of the National War Front to the Premier of the Punjab who happens to be the leader of the Provincial National War Front.

There is another gentleman here who says the same thing and he makes a definite allegation that this money is being collected in the name of the National War Front. Here is a cutting from the leading article of a Urdu paper of Delhi Togh. It says—

"Is ropaye ki fardehams Zamindara League ke nam per nahin balkah Hokumat-e Hind ke National War Front ke dr men ki ja rahi hai National War Front ke jaise munafiq hote hain aur apne asrat aur Hokumat ke dabao se jabran logon se ropayah wasul kiyi ja rahi hai."

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT

I have so many newspaper cuttings and so many statements from various respectable persons that if I were to relate them it would take hours

The Muslim League of Sheikhupura passed a resolution condemning the methods of the officials of the district adopted of extorting contributions from the zamindars of the district for the funds of the Zemindara League and saying that the drama of the Zemindara League that is being staged in the name of the National War Front would be sure to demoralize the people of the province. What happens? Those who have rendered valuable services to the National War Front if they do not agree to the misuse of the National War Front by the Premier or the leader of the Provincial War Front of Punjab are turned out of the organisation. Here is a case

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdul Rahim) The Honourable Member has one minute more

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan. Khan Bahadur Nazir Ahmad Khan was dismissed from the leadership of the District War Front, Montgomery. In a press statement he said

"If Malik Khizr Hayat can continue as Provincial Leader of the National War Front in the presence of his pronouncement, why should a district leader professing the same faith be dealt with otherwise. I shall continue to perform the duty even after my removal from the leadership of the National War Front. But I am also of the opinion that the present methods of the Unionists are no less Fascist in outlook, there being no scope for the expression of even honest opinion"

It is really not possible within fifteen minutes to say much more but I think I have succeeded in showing that the platform of the National War Front is being misused, money is being collected by force from the people and in the name of the National War Front, and is presented to the Premier, who is the leader of the National War Front, at the meetings that are arranged and held under the auspices of and by the National War Front of the Punjab

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdul Rahim) Motion moved
"That the Assembly do now adjourn"

Mr. M. Ghiasuddin (Punjab Landholders) Mr. President, I have a few observations to make before the House. First of all, I must congratulate the National War Front movement that it has won a great supporter in the person of the Honourable the Deputy Leader of the Muslim League. This is an achievement for which the National War Front in this country deserves to be congratulated, because if I correctly heard the Deputy Leader of the Muslim League Party he said that he wanted to eradicate corruption from the ranks of the National War Front movement and that he wanted to bring it on a proper level so that people may not turn against that movement

Well, Sir, that shows that the Honourable Nawabzada Saheb has after all become a great well-wisher of this movement. This was not the attitude of the Muslim League a few years ago when the National War Front movement was struggling to gain a foothold among the people. If I remember correctly, the Nawab of Mamdot, who is the President of the Muslim League in the Punjab, was offered the leadership of the National War Front of his district and he refused it. It was something *infra dig* for him and I hope that this motion of adjournment is outcome of sincere wish to improve National War Front movement

Here I will say that the position of the Punjab in this respect is a peculiar one. For one thing the Legislature of the Province passed a resolution giving the fullest support to the war effort of the Allies. So, in that respect, we can say that the Punjab is at war with the Axis Powers because its Legislature wanted it to be so. Now, what is the Premier of the Punjab? He is a servant of the people and a servant of the Legislature and he has to carry out the orders given by the people of his province through the channel of the Punjab Legislative Assembly. Furthermore, I would say that the present leader of the National War Front movement also happens to be the Premier of the Punjab. Well, he is Premier because he enjoys the confidence of his people. They put him there and by God's grace he is going to remain there so long as he enjoys that

[Mr M Ghiasuddin]

confidence, and, therefore, he has to do propaganda work for that purpose. Sir, I was sorry to hear Nawabzada Saheb impute motives to a public man who, at least, is of the same eminence as Nawabzada Saheb himself. Now it is not very difficult to impute motives to anybody, especially if the person happens to hold more than one office. For instance, one can say that Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan holds two offices. He was a judge not so long ago over Malik Khizar Hayat Khan and he condemned him. Now he holds another office, that is, he is a member of this House and I will be the last person to impute any motives to anybody. I am sure the Nawabzada when he comes here with this motion of adjournment, he has only one thing in his heart and that is that public money should not be wasted and that the National War Front movement should not be corrupted. But if there was any uncharitable person he might impute motives to the Nawabzada Saheb, by saying that he had already condemned Malik Khizar Hayat Khan Tiwana outside the House and so he wishes to condemn him inside the House also. That is what a less charitable person would say. I would not dream of thinking any such uncharitable thought. But I would say this that our public life in this country will go to dogs if public men of great eminence started imputing motives to each other.

What is it that actually happens? As I said before, the Honourable the leader of the National War Front movement in the Punjab happens to hold more than one post: he is the leader of the National War Front and he is also the Premier of the Punjab. He may be the President of many other bodies. What happens is that he goes on tour when naturally those bodies of which he is the President or Chairman, etc., all come to him and present him with addresses and so on. So, what he does really is that at the meetings of the Zamindars League he does his propaganda for the National War Front. I am not holding any brief for him but I think that such propaganda can be done at the meeting of the Zamindars League.

The Nawabzada Saheb also quoted extracts from various newspapers, but he did not think fit to mention their names. All I can say is that most of the newspapers speak in favour of their own parties. If the selfsame act were done by a member of their own party it is something very honourable but when done by another person belonging to an opposite school of thought, it becomes something reprehensible.

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan It was the *Tribune* of Lahore from which I quoted and it is by no means the friend of the Muslim League.

Mr. M Ghiasuddin Neither is it a friend of the Unionist Party.

The Nawabzada quoted from a gentleman who was very recently removed from the leadership of the National War Front movement. Now, that gentleman says that he was removed, because he obstructed Major Khizar Hayat Khan from carrying on his party propaganda from that front, but I am sure Major Khizar Hayat Khan has another story to tell. They say that that gentleman was removed, because he was not taking sufficient interest in the work and therefore his removal was considered necessary. So, if an honourable member of this House is to come forward with statements of those people who have been removed from a certain organisation and quote them, I would request other Honourable Members of this House to attach very little importance to such statements.

On the positive side I would say what the National War Front movement has done in the Punjab. It is something of which any province in this country can be proud. Nay, it is more than that. I think it is something for which any Allied country can take pride. Half the recruits of the Indian Army have been supplied from this province, and these men came forward to serve their country because of the appeal of men like Lt Col Malik Khizar Hayat Khan and his predecessor Sir Sikandar Hayat Khan. Punjab has taken a lead in procuring recruits. Therefore, I would say that if any province or provincial leader has shown results, it is the province of the Punjab and the provincial leader of the Punjab who deserves every commendation of this House.

Sardar Bahadur Captain Waspat Singh (nominated Non-Official) **Mr. Prem-**
dent, I rise to oppose the motion moved by my Honourable friend, **Nawabzada**
Ishaqat Ali Khan. I would refrain from going into details but shall speak
freely and clearly.

My Honourable friend, **Mr. Ghasuddin**, has already explained every thing that is going in the National War Front in the Punjab and I quite agree with him. I am a district leader of the National War Front in the Rohtak District and I have attended several meetings of the movement in the Ambala Division. The Nawabzada is wrong when he says that the money is collected in the name of the National War Front. We the Zamindars collect the money and present the money at our meetings to the Honourable the Premier of the Punjab and the National War Front organisation is quite free from any outside influence. The National War Front organisation is interested in helping the soldiers who are fighting outside India, in the Grow More Food Campaign and generally to help the war effort in every way. In Rohtak I presented an address and the Zamindars League presented their address and a sum of Rs 6,000 to the Honourable the Premier. What was wrong in it? This is a quarrel between the Unionist Party and the Muslim League and the same quarrel is being fought here. Our National War Front Leader, **Malik Khizar Hayat Khan**, is a very popular leader. We are all helping him. He is a great leader. We have every confidence in his leadership and he is doing every thing. He is not misusing any money. The big zamindars collect the money and they are supporting the Unionist Government. With these words, I again strongly oppose the motion moved by my Honourable friend, **Nawabzada Ishaqat Ali Khan**.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman (Patna and Chota Nagpur cum Orissa Muhammadan) I have no desire to keep the House very long on this issue. I only just want to reply to my Honourable friend, **Mr. Ghasuddin**, who has tried to give a wrong interpretation to the subject of the motion. **Mr. Ghasuddin** has introduced the story of Punjab Assembly's attitude towards war efforts and Punjab Premier's duties in that capacity. We have no quarrel with that. We do not want to hear it. The point brought out by the Deputy Leader of the Muslim League Party is that the National War Front is a Central Government organisation the expenses of which are being paid by the taxpayers of the whole country, and it cannot be used for any purpose other than that for which it was brought into being. No question arises, as **Mr. Ghasuddin** probably wanted to imply, whether we did give sanction for the setting up of National War Front organisation or not. We merely want to impress on this House that the organisation as it stands should not have been used for any purpose other than the purpose for which it has been made to exist, and our claim is, and the Deputy Leader of the Muslim League Party has made the case very clear, that the Premier of the Punjab is utilising this organisation for purposes foreign to its purpose. I would impress on this House that in every organisation there should be some code of morality about the activities, and the Premier of the Punjab, though he may be the leader of the National War Front, cannot and should not have done what he is alleged to have been doing. Even if **Mr. Churchill** has an organisation of a National War Front in England, he is not expected to utilise that for the benefit of the Conservative Party in England. If he does so, he will be condemned by all the people there. So, I would like to impress upon my friend, **Mr. Ghasuddin**, that he should not try to interpret this adjournment motion in the way he did. The position is clear we want only to impress on this House and through you, Sir, on the Government that the purpose of the National War Front is not being served in the Punjab and the taxpayers' money is being spent on activities other than what was originally intended, and on subjects which can never serve the purpose of the National War Front. This is the point which I want to bring out and nothing more. With these words, I support the motion.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan (Agra Division Muhammadan Rural) Sir, my friend, **Mr. Ghasuddin**, has returned after a long tour of Europe, and

[Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan]

America and we expected a speech of the kind from him, he said he did not want to be uncharitable to my friend the Deputy Leader of the Muslim League Party and I do not want to be uncharitable to my friend, Mr Ghiasuddin and say that he was influenced in his speech by the vote of censure which was passed on the Government because they deputed Mr Ghiasuddin to represent India.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) The Honourable Member must not go into all that.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan. I am saying that I hope he will not take me to be uncharitable for saying this. He comes and says that the National War Front was looking forward for help to the people for a long time and they could not find any supporters, and he said that Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan speaks today in this strain that he has become a supporter of the National War Front. But may I ask him—though the memory of the people is not very strong sometimes but I hope he will not forget that stalwarts like Sir Sikandar Hayat Khan, who never said that he did not belong to the Muslim League—was he not a member of the National War Front? What is Mr Ghiasuddin compared to Sir Sikandar Hayat Khan?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) The Honourable Member should not indulge in such comparisons.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: Khizar Hayat Khan was not a member of the Zamindara League up to the time of few months back, he was a member of the Muslim League even up to a few months ago, and still he says that he sticks to the ideals of the Muslim League and that he was still helping it. Many members of the Muslim League were helping the National War Front. So I think Mr Ghiasuddin cannot side-track the issue by saying this and throwing dust in this manner on the issue before the House. The issue before the House is only one, and it is this, that the National War Front organisation which is financed by the Government of India is being utilised by a leader, however eminent he may be, for the benefit of his own political party. A meeting is convened in the name of the National War Front, under the protection of the permanent officials who are the paid servants of the Government because they can come to help the National War Front organisation, and at this meeting, which is thus convened, speeches are made, under the protection of the officials, by a gentleman who dare not make that speech if the officials left the meeting. My friend, Mr Ghiasuddin, may say anything he likes, but I challenge that let Khizar Hayat Khan and Mr Ghiasuddin come and make that speech in the Chandni Chowk or in any other place in the Punjab, even in Shahpur district, a speech of the kind he made there, if he is not protected by the official block there, and I will be glad to see that his clothes remain on him in the same clean condition in which he happened to go there, if those clothes will be covered by cowdung all over, I suppose it will be because rotten eggs cannot be found in the villages easily.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) The Honourable Member must remember that the gentleman is not here to answer any attacks on him.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: Mr Ghiasuddin introduced his personality, though I did not like it. We wanted the debate to be confined to the matter before the House, but he introduced the subject and threw dust on the Muslim League and on our Deputy Leader by saying that there was only one champion who wants to fight against the Nazis, and that everybody else is not wanting to fight against the Nazis. These implications are absolutely wrong, because every one of us wants to fight against Nazism, we have declared that openly on the floor of this House many times and this implication was the most unjust that could be made. It was only meant to influence and bias the vote on this issue. The issue is clear, whether this organisation is being prostituted by the men in authority. He happens to be a man who enjoys two positions—one as the premier, of course he is quite at liberty to form a party of his own in any manner he likes—we have no objection to that. But he cannot use his position as the leader of the National War Front in which he enjoys my confidence and the confidence of many others also—he cannot use that position

and that money for the purposes of bolstering up his own party, where I am not interested. That is the position before this House and I hope that the House will calmly and quietly see this and I think my friend, Mr Nauman, has put it very rightly that even my friends, my English friends in this House, who know the constitution very well, will not allow in their own country—that even Mr Churchill cannot make use of the National War Front for the purpose of the betterment of the Conservative Party. He cannot. It is an unheard of thing in the politics of any democratic country. You cannot run one institution in one name and utilise it for other purposes. If you are using this organisation for only National War Front work, we have no objection. The Muslim Leaguers were not opposed to the National War Front. Thousands of Muslim Leaguers have joined the National War Front. They not only subscribed but gave recruits also. If the meeting was convened for the purpose of the war front, it must be confined to that one purpose alone. You cannot make propaganda there for another organisation which you want to start. That should be condemned. We want to know why the Government of India have not stopped this. Either they have been keeping quiet deliberately or they do not know. I cannot say that they do not know, because the papers have been printing things and the Government is expected to know everything that is happening in the country.

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: A telegram was sent to them about this.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: Government has got no excuse to say that they do not know. If they say that, they condemn themselves. They know everything that is happening in the country and it is the duty of the Government to know. If they knew this and they deliberately kept quiet, then it means that they are deliberately encouraging this. If this is happening deliberately with the help of the Government, then what does the Government deserve. Will they themselves tell me?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed (Member for Information and Broadcasting) I will.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: If the Government deliberately encouraged this organisation of the National War Front to be utilised for the purpose of political propaganda of a political party and for the purpose of collection of funds in the same meeting, then don't they deserve the censure of this House? If that is true, they do deserve censure. If my friend says it is not true, that is a different thing. My friend can convince me that it is not true. But if it is true, then my friend will certainly admit that he deserves the censure of this House.

My friend the Nawabzada has shown that these facts have appeared in the Press and they have been given out in the whole of the Punjab. It does not matter what my friend the Nawabzada has said in some place in a semi-judicial capacity. It should not be said on that account that this condemnation should not be taken notice of. Here is a paper which has been quoted, which has been criticising the Muslim League from day to day, which has no sympathy with the Muslim League and which is not very friendly to the Muslim League and this paper comes from Lahore. If these things were wrongly printed in the paper, then it was the duty of a man like Malik Khizar Hayat Khan, who is the Premier of the Punjab and who has the machinery behind him, to contradict it and say this is all rubbish and something untrue has been published. If the National War Front meeting and the Zamindara League meetings had been held in different places with an interval of two hours and there were no officials present in the Zamindara League meeting we could understand it but that has not been done and no contradiction has been made. If the facts that have been mentioned are true, then for the sake of public morality, for the sake of keeping the politics of the country clean, it is necessary that the permanent officials should not take part in politics one way or the other. Otherwise you will have in the political sphere the collision of things that you find in municipalities and district boards. One party comes into power.

[Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan]

It turns out all the permanent officials who are not friendly to it. It brings in new officials. Then another party comes into power. They turn out those officials and appoint others. The result will be that there will be no security for the permanent officials and there will be no public morality in the country and the whole thing will turn into chaos.

If you are following the example of political institutions in England, then it is necessary to enforce the same principles of public morality that you find in English institutions. If the working of these institutions is found to be defective, then it is the duty of every one of us to rise to the occasion and condemn it. Unless you condemn it, this practice will continue and public morality will be allowed to degenerate by the action or the inaction of the Government. If three addresses were presented in the same meeting because the man happens to work in three different capacities, it does not mean that he can act in three different ways in the same place at the same time. I think this is not right. If the Premier is holding a National War Front meeting he must hold it at one time and one place and if a meeting is held for other purposes, it must be held after some lapse of time. If he wants to get an address from the Municipal Committee or the District Board, it must be separate from the National War Front meeting. If a third meeting is held for the purpose of collecting funds for making propaganda for the Zamindara League, it should be held at least two or three hours later on, in which no permanent official should be allowed to come in. If this had been going on, nobody would object.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) The Honourable Member's time is up.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan I support the motion moved by my Honourable friend Nawabzada Ismaquat Ali Khan.

Mr. Kailash Bihari Lal (Bhagalpur, Purnea and the Sonthal Parganas Non-Muhammadian) I had no mind to speak on this motion but as the debate proceeded I saw that some points ought to be made clear.

In the first instance, in my opinion I do not think that the Governor General in Council has much to do with this National Front matter (An Honourable Member "No") I am told that the Governor General has got connection with its administration and the Governor General in Council has not. I want this point to be made clear. This is a constitutional point.

So far as the misapplication or misuse of the National War Front is concerned, I am at one with the Muslim League. I am prepared to support their contention that there should be no misuse or misapplication of the National War Front money or platform. One thing which strikes me is that the Muslim League Party has no soft corner for the Premier of the Punjab. If it is a fact and if the Premier of the Punjab belongs to the Unionist Party and wields influence in his capacity as Leader of the National War Front and uses that influence in favour of the Unionist Party and if the Muslim League Party want to hound him out from every sphere then that position does not sound logical to our ears. They might have had differences with the Unionist Party and they might not be liking the ways of the Prime Minister of the Punjab because he has differed from them. But then the Prime Minister of the Punjab might have his own point of view of the administration. And so far as this aspect is concerned, I think the House must think over the question dispassionately. They should not take the side of the Muslim League because the Muslim League has got a quarrel with the Prime Minister of the Punjab or the Unionist Party in the Punjab. I think my friends of the Muslim League will also be charitable and just in this regard because it will be unjust if it once enters into their mind that so-and-so has differed from the Muslim League and therefore he must pay the penalty and he must be hounded out from every platform and everywhere and even the Central Assembly must be utilised to inflict some punishment upon him. So, looking from that point of view, I felt an urge that I should make it clear that we should not be a party, if this be the lurking intention on the part of the Muslim League Party, namely, to inflict some

punishment on the Prime Minister because he belongs to the Unionist Party or because he had the audacity to differ from Mr Jinnah or had a quarrel with Mr Jinnah. If that be their attitude, then they must not expect any help from this House. So far as the misuse of the National War Front is concerned, I felt that no case has been made out against the Prime Minister and so far as the misuse of the platform is concerned, I have got my own suspicion. They say that the man could not have separated his personality while he was acting as the Prime Minister or acting as the Leader of the Unionist Party or acting as the Leader of the National War Front and therefore he might have gained some influence and he might have helped the cause of the Unionist Party in the Punjab. If that be the fault, then that also falls to the ground. It is from that point of view that I want the Muslim League Party to throw more light as to how there has been the misapplication of the National War Front money or the misuse of the National War Front platform.

Maulana Zafar Ali Khan (East Central Punjab Muhammadan) Sir, I have just come from the Punjab and I have been touring in that province. I went to Khanawal where there was a mass meeting of about 15,000 people. Then, I went to Ludhiana where there was a meeting of 20,000 people. Their united verdict was that Malik Khizar Hayat Khan, in view of the attitude that he has taken up in politics, is a renegade and he has betrayed his community.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) Order, order that is not the question before the House.

Maulana Zafar Ali Khan: Well, Sir, it has been declared from the house-tops of the Unionist Ministry, and Sir Chotu Ram is one of them, that they will crush the life out of the Muslim League Party.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) All that does not arise. Honourable Member must not go into Punjab politics.

Maulana Zafar Ali Khan: The National War Front is the common property of the people of India, everybody can stand on that platform. The money that is collected there is not intended for the purpose of the Zamindara League. Rs. 20 lakhs have already been collected and they say they will raise up to 50 lakhs in order to give support to their party, although they know that the real power that stands behind them are the voters by millions who will have nothing to do with them.

My friend, Mr. Ghiasuddin, gave a certificate to Malik Khizar Hayat Khan from America. May I tell him that the Mussalmans of the Punjab, which is looked upon as the sword arm of the Empire, are no whit less anxious for the successful prosecution of the war than Malik Khizar Hayat Khan and Mr. Ghiasuddin himself are? Even Mr. Gandhi who is at daggers drawn with the Britishers, has pointed out that he is a pro-Britisher so far as the achievement of the great object is concerned and that object is to have nothing to do with Fascism or Nazism or to defeat Germany and Japan. Anybody who puts a spoke in this wheel or who places an obstacle in the achievement of this end, is an enemy of the country. The National War Front was intended to be used for raising money and for collecting men and material for the successful prosecution of the war. But in the Punjab this money is being collected for a purpose for which it was never intended namely the strengthening of the Unionist Party. Even the material is collected for the purpose of helping the Zamindara League. The Zamindara League is a rival political institution and Malik Khizar Hayat Khan by using its platform, in the name of the National War Front is doing harm to the cause of the war.

Our opponents say that the Mussalmans are against the war and against taking the part in the successful prosecution of the war. There is nothing more untrue than this. We declare here on the floor of the House that we want the success of the Britishers as against Germany and Japan. Our differences with the British Government are in the nature of a home affair. We do not want America or Russia to help us in solving our problems because we are able to help ourselves. Our differences will go on. If after the war is over the promise that the Britishers have made to us of extending to us the right of self-determination is not fulfilled, then we will carry on our fight.

[Maulana Zafar Ali Khan]

against them in this country but we will never look to America or any other country to help us. With these words I support the motion moved by Nawabzada Lasquat Ali Khan. I trust the Government will open its eyes and see how things are going on merrily in the Punjab.

Captain Thakur Singh (Nominated Non-Official) Mr. President, I do not want to take up the time of the House. All that I wish to say is that I quite agree with my friends Sardar Dalpat Singh and Mr. Ghiasuddin.

Mr. Lalchand Navarai (Sind Non-Muhammadan Rural) Sir, I may assure the House that I restrained myself very much from entering into this fight which, I may say, is not gracefully done. There are motives expressed against each other and they have even suggested that these things are done out of personal spite. I had thought that I should not enter into this discussion and leave the matter to be decided in the manner they liked the best. On the one side, I see a party representing the Premier of the Punjab and on the other side I see some Members, especially the Mover of the motion, siding the Muslim League. Indeed, I never wanted to enter into this debate from that angle.

because in deciding this matter, it should be done solely on merits, and not because one party has a spite that it should have brought the motion and another party that may be in the wrong should come forward and say it is in the right. My object in rising to take part in the discussion is to place before the House certain issues which arise in this case. The first issue is whether this House has constitutionally got the power to go into this debate and the second issue is whether on merits, it is proved that defalcation took place.

An Honourable Member Is it defalcation?

Mr. Lalchand Navarai: I meant the use of money for some other purpose. What is the constitutional position involved?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) I have allowed this motion to be discussed.

Mr. Lalchand Navarai: I bow to your ruling and I want that the same ruling should hold good for all times. I myself brought to the notice of the House one or two cases of a similar nature and the ruling on those occasions was different. My point is this, the motion wants to censure. Censure whom? Not the Governor General in Council, but the Governor General, because section 54 that has been quoted.

An Honourable Member: This motion has nothing to do with that section (Interruptions.)

Mr. Lalchand Navarai: I am a disinterested speaker and I hope I will be allowed to have my say without these interruptions. It was said that the Governor General failed in not exercising.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) Order, order, this motion has nothing to do with that.

Mr. Lalchand Navarai: Is it not the contention that the Governor General did not use his discretion?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) The motion refers to the Government of India.

Mr. Lalchand Navarai: If the motion is against the Government of India, when the Governor General as part of the Government of India comes in.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) The Honourable Member must not bring in the Governor General. This motion does not concern him.

Mr. Lalchand Navarai: My submission is that if this is a motion against the Government of India and it is in respect of National War Front of which they have jurisdiction, then it is all right. I understood it the other way. I understood that it was the Governor General's discretion that was being questioned and therefore I was arguing that this House has no jurisdiction.

Coming to the merits, I wish to say only a few words. Certain extracts from newspapers have been read to support the doings of the Premier. On the other hand it was urged that those newspapers were being published by

persons who were interested I should like to know one thing Has it been proved up to this time that the money that was actually collected as earmarked for the National War Front was being utilised for the Zamindara League?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) That is not the allegation at all

Mr. Lalchand Navarai: I say that should be the allegation and then only on proper proof could the Premier of the Punjab be made responsible

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) That has not been alleged by anybody

Mr. Lalchand Navarai: The misuse of National War Front money is alleged in this way that at the time when the Premier addresses as the Leader of the National War Front, he realises some money At the same time, there is another meeting of the Zamindara League and money is taken for both the organisations Because the two meetings take place close upon one another, it may be argued that it leads to some suspicion that the money collected for the National War Front was being utilised for the Zamindara League I submit that that suspicion alone is not enough to censure the Government and I do hope this motion will not be pursued any further

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: Sir, I will be very brief in my reply The Honourable the Deputy Leader of the Muslim League Party started by saying that there were three points raised in this Motion for Adjournment The first was that the National War Front was not doing its legitimate business, secondly, that the National War Front was being misused for a certain purpose and thirdly, that this action has created hostility amongst a large section of the people Now, Sir, as regards the first, that the National War Front is not doing its legitimate work, I do not find one word of it in the Adjournment Motion itself Then we come to the misuse I submit it is purely a question of fact I will deal with that later As regards the allegation that it has created hostility amongst a large section, I do not see much evidence of that from the Punjab Members of this House, at any rate Therefore the main point to be considered is this whether the National War Front Organisation has been misused for the purpose of propaganda in favour of or for collection of funds for a political party, namely, the Zamindara League Sir, when I came to know of an allegation of this kind sometime ago, about a couple of months ago, I got into touch with the Provincial Leader and I got his assurance at that time there was no such misuse at all, and having been satisfied on that point, no further action was taken or could be taken Sir, there has been a certain amount of, call it squabble, call it controversy, call it by any name you like, but undoubtedly there has been a violent difference of opinion between the Honourable Malik Khizar Hayat Khan Tiwana, the Premier, who is also the National War Front Leader and the Muslim League Party in the Punjab Therefore, I beg of the House to consider this question from an absolutely disinterested point of view I have got a categorical denial of this allegation from the Government of the Punjab and also from the Honourable Malik Khizar Hayat Khan Tiwana and I feel happy that in this House that denial has been supported by at least three Punjab Members of this House, one of them being the District Leader himself present at certain meetings and he has given us what I submit convincing reasons for supposing that the National War Front organisation was not being misused at all Unless and until this House has got some more clear and more cogent evidence before it, I feel confident that this Motion for Adjournment will not be accepted The National War Front, I have been assured, has nothing to do with the Unionist party or the Zamindara League, and no funds of the National War Front have been used for the Zamindara League and no funds of the Zamindara League or the Unionist Party have been used for the National War Front organisation The practice has been long before the present Premier came to office, since the time of Sir Sikandar Hayat Khan, that when the premier used to go about the province various addresses used to be presented to him by public bodies, for instance, the local bodies or the Khalsa Defence League or the Soldiers' Board and so on

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: Were any addresses presented on behalf of any political party?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: If there was any political party, addresses must have been presented, and if there was none, no address was presented. But it is well known that under the auspices of the National War Front organisation no purses were received by him as leader of the National War Front. The fact is that a National War Front meeting was held, addresses were presented to him by the different leaders of the different subdivisions or districts if held in the divisional headquarters, and then after that was over his reply was given. Another address was then presented to him on behalf of the District League or the Khalsa League or the Defence League or, for the matter of that, the Zamindara League, and after one meeting was over the other meeting was held, and so on. But it is not correct to say that any National War-Front platform was utilised for the purpose of collecting any funds for the Zamindara League or for promoting its interests. In fact I am assured that no funds are actually collected in the meetings of the National War Front at all.

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: I did not say that.

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: I say that, and it is for the House to consider the effect of my submission, that no funds were collected at any meeting of the National War Front either for the Zamindara League or any other League, nothing was done which would in any way show the connection of the two. But it is true that the Premier happens to be the provincial Leader also and therefore an address must be presented to him as such on behalf of the National War Front. But I do not see how it can be suggested for a moment that the National War Front organisation was being utilised for purposes of propaganda in favour of or for the collection of funds for the Zamindara League. Certain quotations have been cited by my Honourable friend the Deputy Leader of the Muslim League party. I could also come with hundreds of quotations of that kind from paper supporting a different organisation. There is such a controversy going on between the different sections of the people there that I think the House would be well advised not to attach the slightest importance to these quotations. Quotations from the *Zamindar*, I say with great respect to my Honourable friend the Deputy Leader and also to the owner of that paper when he comes to support this motion, cannot be of much value as there are other people who know the position of that particular paper. It is a party paper and as such is bound to support that party and the party will support it. I have no doubt that the language which has been used here by my Honourable friend Maulana Zafar Ali Khan might have been used in some of the articles there, but that will not in any way influence the Members of this House to accept this motion.

Now, it is true that the Unionist Party is entirely for war efforts, and the Zamindara League also is entirely for war efforts.

Maulana Zafar Ali Khan: Sir, on a point of personal explanation.

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: I am not giving way, the time at my disposal is short.

The National War Front is of course cent per cent for war efforts but there are other things in the Zamindara League and the other Leagues which do not find a place in the National War Front organisation. And therefore it has been pointed out to me on the authority of the Punjab Government that some people who were members of the National War Front left it and went over to the Zamindara League. That shows that the two bodies are absolutely separate and one has nothing to do with the other except that the aims and objects, so far as the war efforts go, are the same. But there are so many other things which you find in the other organisations which are not covered by the National War Front. I submit, Sir, that the fact that addresses from different organisations were presented to him at a meeting where an address was presented to him as Leader of the National War Front will not in any way militate against his acting as Premier so far as the other organisations are concerned. I therefore submit to the House that the House will take a dispassionate view of this.

matter and not be influenced by the party troubles that have unfortunately arisen in that province, and I do submit that the House will answer this motion by rejecting it

Mr. N. M. Joshi (Nominated Non-official) Sir, I have listened to the debate very attentively. The Deputy Leader of the Muslim League Party had made a statement that at a meeting called under the auspices of the National War Front the Premier of the Punjab made a speech, of which some quotations were given. This speech has been characterised, in my judgment very rightly, as a partisan speech and not a speech which should be made from the platform of the National War Front. The Honourable the Leader of the House seemed to me to admit that several meetings were held at the same place one after another for different purposes,—first a meeting under the auspices of the National War Front was held and when it finished its work another meeting was held at the same place under the auspices of some other organisation, and when that was over a third meeting was held under the auspices of a third organisation. I feel that at the best every Member of the Legislature will admit that this is a procedure of questionable wisdom. To hold meetings under the auspices of three organisations consecutively at the same place one after another is surely in my judgment a step of questionable wisdom. I am sure the Leader of the House will admit it.

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed He does not

Mr. N. M. Joshi: He ought to. I say that if the Government of India want to keep the National War Front a non-party organisation they should avoid occasions of this kind. If meetings are held at the same place consecutively under the auspices of three or four organisations for different purposes, there is bound to be a misunderstanding in the mind of the public.

There is also another mistake on the part of the National War Front, namely, to appoint as its leaders people who have to take part in partisan controversies and partisan politics. If the Government of India want the National War Front to be considered a national organisation and not a party organisation, then again to appoint party leaders as leaders of National War Front is a policy of questionable wisdom.

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed The Government of India do not appoint provincial leaders.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: If they do not appoint them they are in any case responsible for the whole of the National War Front and the Government of India should see that when leaders are appointed for the National War Front they are not drawn from the classes of people who are bound to take part in partisan politics. I therefore feel, Sir, that the effect on my mind of this discussion is that the Government of India is not taking sufficient care to see that the National War Front is kept as a non-partisan body and I would suggest to the Government to change this policy. At least let them be more careful and see that the National War Front is not tainted with partisanship.

Sardar Sant Singh (West Punjab Sikh) I have listened to the debate with great interest and with a great deal of attention. There is no doubt that the occasion has been taken by the supporters as well as opponents of this motion to plead their loyalty to a particular individual or condemn his actions. To my mind the motion did not relate to the issue of this sort. The issue is pregnant with a greater evil than probably has been realised by most of the speakers in this House. The issue is this whether such contributions which I term as 'forced levies' under different names—and one of those 'forced levies' was the contributions to the War Purposes Fund which was stopped by the orders of the Government of India some times back—will end in maintaining peace in the country? Before I proceed further I may remind my Honourable friends that in the last war, as it is being done in this war, forced levies were made. The result was that as soon as the Defence Rules were withdrawn or relaxed and the country reverted to normal times after the Armistice, there burst out unprecedented violence in the country which resulted in the imposition of Martial Law and so many brutal slaughters and massacres in the

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[Sardar Sant Singh] Punjab May I remind the Government of India that though under the Defence of India Rules we are becoming . . .

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) We have not got anything to do with the Defence of India Rules in this matter

Sardar Sant Singh: I only wish to say . . .

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) The Honourable Member should not go into the application of the Defence of India Rules I know it is a favourite subject of the Honourable Member

Sardar Sant Singh: It is, Sir, but I am only pressing this point that these collections for the Zamindara Fund and their presentation to the Premier of the Province on a National War Front platform is merely a camouflage. The real object is something different and it forebodes dire consequences for the future. Sir, I am conscious of the fact that the Deputy Leader of the Muslim League Party has raised this motion because of the rebuff Muslim League received from the Unionist Party. I have great respect for my Honourable friend's abilities. But the fact remains that he did not raise similar motions, with regard to Bengal when Mr. Fazlul Huque was made to resign forcibly, he did not raise the question when in the North-West Frontier Province the Ministry was changed. Either when similar undemocratic actions were taken in Assam and in Sind I wish his constitutional conscience should have been touched. There is, therefore, no doubt that motive behind this motion is of a questionable value. Yet the fact remains that the motion on its merit is a sound one. The Government of India should do well to turn their attention to the merits of the motion. Sir, I may relate one case which happened recently and which the press has not published. In the town of Gojra, about 30 miles from Lyallpur, a similar meeting was convened where people were asked to make contributions. The conduct of the convener exasperated one man to such a degree that he became mad over this 'forceful levy', and made a murderous assault upon the organiser of the meeting. He was pursued by the Police and was shot dead. The reason that led to such unfortunate results was that his father was asked to contribute Rs. 100 to one of such funds. His old father did not have that much as his whole capital. The humiliation of his father upset the youngman leading to tragic consequences. This has happened recently. May I ask whether the Government of India will not rise to the occasion and stop these forced levies. There are so many contributions to be made and so many funds are started—Zamindara Fund, Saving Schemes and War loans—that it has become hard for the people to live.

The second point, to which my Honourable friend Sir Muhammad Yamin has drawn attention, requires serious consideration, and that is the utilization of the civil services for the purposes of party propaganda and for the collection of funds. This is being done every day and probably in every province. There is no dearth of it in the Punjab. Meetings are organised, the headmen of villages are required to bring people to these meetings and to contribute forcibly. I do not think the National War Front was intended for that purpose. The object of the National War Front was to keep up the morale of the civil population during the war and to help in the war effort. It is very doubtful whether war effort is helped by such conduct of civil servants. The Leader of the House may say that he has received a clean denial. It may be true that he received a complete denial, but the fact remains that all the facts stated by the Deputy Leader of the Muslim League Party are correct word for word. These things are done, we know it, we see it, we are witnessing it daily. For the purpose of debate you may say anything to win this point or lose that point—that is not the question. The question is that the country is passing through terrible times. If people are silent, it is because of the Defence of India Rules. Therefore don't you judge the silence of people, the want of people being vocal by the fact that there is no such complaint in the country. Press cannot publish such incidents, people cannot speak about them, they are bearing it all quietly. But I am afraid that when this suppression ends there will be a ter-

able reaction to the disadvantage of any established Government I give this warning to the Government before it is too late

Some Honourable Members: Question may be put—

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) The question is

“That the question be now put”

The Assembly divided

AYES—50

Ahmad Nawaz Khan, Major Nawab Sir
Ambedkar, The Honourable Dr B R
Anthony, Mr Frank R
Azizul Huque, The Honourable Sir M
Bentham, The Honourable Sir Edward
Bhagchand Soni, Rai Bahadur Seth
Chicoe, Sir Olaf
Chandavarkar, Sir Vithal N
Christopher Montimer, Mr T
Chitterson, Lt Col Dr J C
Daga, Seth Sunder Lal
Dalil Dr Sir Ritanji Dinshaw
Dalal, The Honourable Sir Ardesur
Dalpat Singh Sirdar Bahadur Captain
Ghassuddin, Mr M
Gwillb, Mr E L C
Halubur Rahman, Khan Bahadur Sheikh
Haidar Khan Bahadur Shamsuddin
Imam Mir Sayid Haider
Inskip Mr A C
Israel Alikhan Kunwer Haje
James Sir F E
Jawahar Singh Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sir
Joshi Mr D S
Kamaluddin Ahmad Shams ul Ulama
Khure The Honourable Dr N B

Krishnamoorthy, Mr E S A
Kushal Pal Singh, Raja Bahadur
Lawson, Mr C P
Mehta, Mr Jamsadas M
Miller, Mr C C
Muazzam Sahib Bahadur, Mr Muhammad
Mudhat, The Honourable Dewan Bahadur
Sir A Ramaswami
Mudhe, The Honourable Sir Francis
Pate Lal Kuncel, Mr
Raisman, The Honourable Sir Jemy
Rao Dr V K R V
Richardson, Sir Henry
Roy, The Honourable Sir Asoka
Sethna, Mr D P
Shahbin, Khan Bahadur Mian Ghulam Kadir
Muhammad
Shoolbert, Mr W H
Siva Raj, Rao Bahadur N
Spence, Sir George
Srivastava, The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad
Stokes Mr H G
Sultan Ahmed, The Honourable Sir
Thakur Singh, Capt
Trivedi, Mr C M
Tyson, Mr J D

NOES—38

Abdul Ghani, Maulvi Muhammad
Abdul Qayyum, Mr
Abdullah, Mr H M
Azhar Ali Mr Muhammad
Banerjee, Dr P N
Chatteroadhyaya, Mr Anandendra Nath
Choudhury, Mr Muhammad Hussain
Desai Mr Bhulabhai J
Deshmukh, Dr G. V
Deshmukh, Mr Govind V
Fatek Sait, Mr H A Sathar H
Fazl Haq Pancha Khon Bahadur Shukh
Gauri Shankar Singh Mr
Gouta Mr K S
Joshi Mr N M
Kailash Bihari Lal Mr
Krishnamachari, Mr T T
Lahuri Chaudhury Mr D K
Lalchand Navarai, Mr

Lalljee Mr Hoo-embhoy A
Liaquat Ali Khan, Nawabzada Muhammad
Mairta, Pandit Lakshmi Kanta
Mangal Singh, Sardar
Manu Subedar, Mr
Murtara Sahib Bahadur Maulvi Syed
Naidu, Mr G Rangiah
Nauman Mr Muhammad
Neogy, Mr K C
Raza Ali, Sir Svel
Sant Singh, Sardar
Satvanarayana Moorty Mr A
Siddique Ali Khan Nawab
Sinha, Mr Satya Narayan
Umar Ali Shali Mr
Vamin Khan Sir Muhammad
Vusuf Abdool Haroon Seth
Zafar Ali Khan, Maulana
Zia Uddin Ahmad Dr Sir

The motion was adopted

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: I am indeed sorry that some of the Honourable Members have considered it fit to drag in the political quarrel between the Muslim League and the Premier of the Punjab. I am more sorry that the Leader of the House should have lent his support to it. I have not brought forward this motion because there is a quarrel between the Premier of the Punjab and the Muslim League. Let me assure the Honourable the Leader of the House and the other Honourable Members of this House that the Muslim League, thank God, today does not need the support of the Members of this House to fight its political quarrels with others. The Muslim League has through the strength which it enjoys brought down bigger men than Malik Khizar Hayat Khan Tiwana. I am indeed very sorry that this Government of India should have a Member for Information who is so misinformed and so ill-informed. He said that I have failed to show that any political speeches have

[1st Nov.]

[Nawabzada Muhammad Maqbat Ali Khan] been made from the National War Front platform. I thought I had given quotations from more than one speech of the Honourable Malik Khizar Hayat Khan Tiwana. I had given quotations from speeches which were published in the *Tribune* of Lahore and which up to to-day have not been contradicted that the Honourable Malik did not make those speeches.

Now let me educate the Honourable Member for Information by giving a quotation of another speech. It is definitely stated that this was a meeting at Lyallpur.

"Malik Khizar Hayat Khan, while speaking at the National War Front Conference held at Lyallpur last evening (*this is quoted in the 'Tribune' of the 31st July, 1st edition*) criticised the Muslim League for its refusal to co-operate with and work on the various Post-war reconstruction committees appointed by the Government and referred to the treatment accorded to Sir Sultan Ahmed and some distinguished Punjabees by expelling them from the League for having refused to withdraw from the Government committee".

Now I understand the tender feeling which the Honourable Member has for the Leader of the Punjab National War Front!

Further on, the Honourable Member says that Malik Khizar Hayat Khan never made any speech in support of the Zamindara League from the platform of the National War Front. This was a conference held by the National War Front. It is not a question of replying to the address of the Zamindara League. I will deal with that in a moment.

"While replying to the charge that the activities of the Zamindara League were opposed to the interests of the rural and backward classes, the Premier declared that he and his party would continue to serve the poor and work for the uplift of the backward classes, a majority of whom happened to be Muslims."

Sir, there are really so many quotations from his speeches published in the papers that I think it would be brazen-faced on the part of any Honourable Member of this House to say that the Honourable Malik Khizar Hayat Khan Tiwana has not made political speeches from the National War Front platform and I challenge anybody to deny that or ask the Punjab Premier to deny that all these reports which have been published in the papers during the last four or five months are untrue. On the contrary, my information is that before the Honourable the Premier goes to any place he sends an advance copy of his speech to these papers and they publish it under his authority. It is not a question of publishing anything that he has said and which has been reported by some correspondent.

Then, Sir, my Honourable friend said and some other Members are also confused, that I said that the funds of the National War Front were being utilized for other purposes. I never said that. What I said was this: that the National War Front organisation was being misused and that funds were being collected and I have definite information and if the Honourable Member for Misinformation is willing to appoint a committee of enquiry, I shall be glad to furnish him with such unimpeachable evidence that he will really be surprised, although I do not think he is so ignorant as he pretends to be. What I said was that all this money was being collected in the name of the people who are supposed to work for the National War Front organisation. All this money is being presented to deceive the people from whom the money has been collected at these meetings of the National War Front, so that they may not doubt that this money was being collected for other purposes.

I am sorry that the Honourable Member referred to the late Sir Sikandar Hayat Khan. I do not remember that on any single occasion he had made at any meeting of the National War Front a political speech, criticising any political party. He made speeches in support of the war effort. He made speeches in support of strengthening the home front and the purses that were presented to the late Sir Sikandar were all presented for purposes of the war. I challenge my Honourable friend, the Member for Misinformation, to prove that on a single occasion any purse was presented to the late Sir Sikandar, which was meant for propagating any political party's creed. It is absolutely wrong to say that the attitude of the present leader of the National War Front is exactly the same as that of his predecessor.

Sir, my Honourable friend Mr Ghiasuddin said that the Punjab is a peculiar province. After his speech I am inclined to agree with him, because the arguments which he gave were most peculiar. I never charged the Zamindars League. My objection is that the platform which was meant and intended and which is declared to be non-political and non-communal and only for the purpose of fighting this war should not be used for any other purpose and I think I have succeeded in showing that that is what is actually happening now.

My Honourable friend, the Member for Misinformation, stated that he was very happy to see that at least three members from the Punjab had stood up for the attitude which has been taken up by the Leader of the National War Front in the Punjab. I do not mean any disrespect to any of the Honourable Members of this House but I think five Members have spoken on this motion from the Punjab. Two of them are Nominated Members. One is a Member who represents a special constituency of a few individuals. I am referring to my Honourable friend Mr Ghiasuddin. The two Members who represent the people of the Punjab, my Honourable friend Sardar Sant Singh and my Honourable friend Mr Zafar Ali Khan have supported me in this motion which I have placed before this Honourable House.

Sir, it was I think very unfortunate that my Honourable friend the Leader of the House should have referred to the *Zamindar* in the terms in which he did. I did not read out any leading article from that paper. Let me tell him that the *Zamindar* is not a party paper in the sense in which he intended it to be. I did not read out any leading article from the *Zamindar*. I was only reading out statements issued by responsible members of the public in the Punjab. They have issued those statements and they have been published in the paper. I do not know how he can really put this matter aside by saying that "the *Zamindar* is a party paper. Party papers have to do this." I think that it is the duty of every newspaper to publish every matter which is of common interest and of public interest to the people. The *Zamindar* only did this duty by publishing the statements which were issued by these responsible men.

Then, Sir, my Honourable friend Mr Ghiasuddin stated that the gentleman who was removed from the District leadership of the National War Front of Montgomery was not showing sufficient interest in the organisation. Well, it is very strange that this very gentleman was praised to the skies by the Leader of the National War Front till the beginning of 1944. It was only after the Leader of the National War Front started misusing the platform of this organisation for his political purposes that he discovered that this Honourable Member was not doing his duty by the National War Front.

Mr. M. Ghiasuddin: I suppose till then the National War Front Leader was an angel!

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: As far as my Honourable friend Mr Kailash Bihari Lall is concerned, I am sorry that he has committed the same fallacy, that I had brought forward this motion on the floor of this House, because of our quarrel with Malik Khizar Hayat Khan. That is not the fact. I brought this on the floor of this House because I felt that this was a matter which was going to affect the public life and the working of democratic parliamentary system of government in this country very seriously. The intention of the Government is to continue this organisation even after the war. I shall deal with that on another occasion, and if this organisation is going to be used for such purposes as I have described, then I say that it will indeed be a sad day for this country and for the future of this country that the Government money and the Government officials and the Government influence should be used for propping up any particular political party. I was expecting really a better answer from the Honourable Leader of the House, and I would request him to devote a little more time and read the speeches which have been made by Malik Khizar Hayat Khan, not at Zamindars League meetings, not at district board meetings but at meetings held by the National War Front Organisation of the Punjab. I want him to read those speeches. Why should you

depend on what the Government of the Punjab has written and assured you saying "Oh, no, we are not doing this"? God has given you intelligence, God has given you sense, you can read the speeches yourself and find out 'or yourself whether it is really propagating the political views of any particular political party from the platform of the National War Front Organisation or not. It is not a secret, it is open, everybody knows it, everybody in the Punjab who reads the papers knows it, and those who do not read the papers also know it because money is extracted from them by force. So, it is really not a matter on which secret or confidential opinion of the Punjab Government was to be considered as final. I again repeat and I submit to my Honourable friend who is in charge of this organisation to really consider this matter seriously. If you are going to allow that an organisation like that should be used by political parties for private purposes, then it will create a very serious situation. It is the party in power today—it may be another party tomorrow and there will be so much demoralisation.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) The Honourable Member has got one minute more.

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan of the services and of the people that the future of this country would indeed be very dark.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) The question is

"That the Assembly do now adjourn."

The motion was negatived.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Thursday, the 1st November, 1944.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Thursday, 2nd November, 1944

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber of the Council House at Eleven of the Clock, Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdul Rahim) in the Chair

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(a) ORAL ANSWERS

GOVERNMENT CONTRIBUTION TO INDIAN LABOUR FEDERATION

31 ***Mr. Lalchand Navalrai** (a) With reference to the reply to my starred question No 776 given on the 4th April, 1944, will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state whether the sum of Rs 13,000 given monthly to the Indian Labour Federation has been distributed amongst the President, Vice-Presidents and other office-bearers of the Federation? If so, in what proportion?

(b) Has the Honourable Member looked into the audited accounts of the Federation to find out how this money has been utilized? If not, why not? If so, does he propose to place the audited accounts on the table of the House from the date the subsidy of Rs 13,000 a month was paid up to this day?

(c) Is it a fact that this question came up before the International Labour Conference, which met at Philadelphia, in the form of the comparative representative character of the Indian Labour Federation and the All-India Trade Union Congress, and what was the decision of the Conference? What has been decided for the future representation of the Indian Labour on the International Labour Conference to be given to an organization not living on subsidy?

(d) Have all the funds paid to the Indian Labour Federation been spent on the object for which they were given? If so, will he give a brief account of the activities of the Federation in this respect? If any part thereof has not been used for the purpose for which it was granted, will the Honourable Member please take steps to have that much portion refunded to the Government? If not, why not?

The Honourable Dr B R Ambedkar (a) The grant is made to the Indian Federation of Labour as an organization and is not distributed among its several office bearers

(b) and (d) (First part) Government are not concerned with the accounts of the Federation, but with the manner in which the Government contribution has been spent by the Federation. They are satisfied that although full and regular accounts are not available for the earlier period of the grant, this expenditure has achieved the objects for which it was sanctioned. With effect from the 1st June, 1944 the accounts will be prepared in the Federation's office by a qualified accountant, and these will be available to audit in the ordinary way.

(c) The grant was mentioned in an objection by the All India Trade Union Congress made to the International Labour Office as regards the credentials of the workers' representatives in the Indian delegation. The Credentials Committee, in its report which was adopted by the Conference, asked the Conference to regard the Workers' delegate of India and his advisers at that session of the Conference as duly accredited. The Committee's report did not mention the grant but stated as follows:

"It does not doubt that the Government of India will continue its endeavours to make provision for the representation of both organisations in an appropriate manner at future sessions of the Conference and ventures to hope that the two organisations will reach an agreement, which will secure the effective participation in the International Labour Organisation of representatives of all sections of the Indian Trade Union movement. The Committee understands that, failing such an agreement, the Indian Workers' delegate to the next session of the

Conference will be appointed in agreement with the All India Trade Union Congress "

(d) (Second part) The monthly grant is spent on publications of printed literature, oral propaganda, 'visual publicity and the disseminating of reassuring news

Mr T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar May I know the object for which the grant has been given?

The Honourable Dr B. R. Ambedkar The answer will be found in my answer to part (d) (Second part) It states that the grant is spent on publication of printed literature, oral propaganda, visual publicity and the disseminating of reassuring news about war

Mr T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar Are the Government satisfied that the money given by them has been spent on those items alone?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar Yes, they are satisfied

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar May I know if the Government are aware that part of this money has been spent on anti-Congress propaganda?

The Honourable Dr B. R. Ambedkar They have no information

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar Will they inquire into the matter?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar I have stated in my answer that with effect from the 1st of June, 1944, the accounts will be prepared in the Federation's Office by a qualified accountant and these will be available to audit in the ordinary way

Sardar Mangal Singh May I know whether this payment is made monthly or yearly?

The Honourable Dr B. R. Ambedkar I have no information on this point in front of me I suppose it is made monthly

Sardar Mangal Singh Is it paid to the Secretary or the President?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar To some responsible officer of the organisation concerned

Mr T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar May I know what is the subject of this propaganda and the subjects of the publications issued?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar It is pro-war propaganda and pro-war literature

Mr. Badri Dutt Pande Will the Honourable Member be prepared to place the audited accounts on the table of the House?

The Honourable Dr B. R. Ambedkar When it is audited, it will be placed on the table and will be available to the Members in the ordinary way

Mr Govind V. Deshmukh What is the period covered for which there have been no accounts?

The Honourable Dr B. R. Ambedkar For the earlier period, we have not got the exact accounts but we have now made arrangements that the accounts will be kept by an officer of the Audit Department

Mr Lalchand Navarai What was the amount?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar I am unable to give the figure

Mr. Lalchand Navarai Who is responsible for not keeping these accounts in the earlier period—the Honourable Member himself or the Government or they?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar I have not followed the question

Mr. Lalchand Navarai The Honourable Member said that for some period no accounts were kept

The Honourable Dr B. R. Ambedkar I have not said that no accounts were kept What I said was

They are satisfied that, although full and regular accounts are not available for the earlier period of the grant, the money has been spent in the manner in which the Government desired it should be spent

Mr. Lalchand Navarai Is the Government satisfied that the money has been spent properly?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar I have no reason to believe to the contrary

Mr. Lalchand Navalkar: It is not a question of the Honourable Member believing to the contrary

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) The Honourable Member is arguing

Mr. Lalchand Navalkar: What evidence has the Honourable Member got for thinking that the money has been spent properly?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I have no reason to believe to the contrary

Mr. Lalchand Navalkar: My question was different How is the Honourable Member able to believe one way or the other?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I have no reason to believe that the amount was not spent regularly

Sardar Sant Singh: May I know if it is only to the satisfaction of the Honourable Member himself or does he take into account that the public has to be satisfied how the money has been spent? How has the Honourable Member satisfied the public?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I do not know how I could satisfy the public but the Government which paid the money is satisfied

Sardar Sant Singh: It is the taxpayers' money that the Government is paying out How is the Government going to satisfy the taxpayer that the money has been legitimately spent?

(No answer)

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Was the Finance Member satisfied with the correctness of accounts?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: That question might be addressed to the Honourable the Finance Member

Mr. Lalchand Navalkar: Who is the Secretary and who is the President of this Labour Federation? Are they paid some salary or money from this fund?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: It does not arise If the Honourable Member will give notice, I will find out the information for him

Mr. T. S. Avinashlingam Chettiar: May I raise a point of order? Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad asked whether the Finance Member was satisfied and the Labour Member replied that the question might be addressed to the Finance Member The Member in charge ought to know whether the Finance Member was satisfied or not He must give the reply

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) He has given the reply I cannot ask the Honourable Member to reply in a particular way

GOVERNMENT CONTRIBUTION TO INDIAN LABOUR FEDERATION

32. Mr. Lalchand Navalkar: (a) With reference to the reply to my starred question No 776 given on the 4th April, 1944, will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state whether his attention has been drawn to a statement made by the President, Indian Labour Federation, at Bombay in December last, at the 1st Annual Session of the Federation, that it was a blackest lie that they were receiving Rs 13,000 per month from the Government?

(b) Has the Honourable Member's attention been also drawn to a statement made by Mr Jamnadas Mehta, President of the Indian Labour Federation on his departure for Philadelphia to attend the International Labour Conference meeting, denying the fact of Rs 13,000 of the Government's subsidy?

(c) Is it also a fact that this statement was made in reply to the Honourable the Labour Member's statement in the House on the 4th April, 1944, confirming the fact that a sum of Rs 13,000 was being given to the Indian Labour Federation?

(d) Is it a fact that the subsidy of Rs 13,000 is secretly paid to Mr M. N. Roy? If so, why is it paid to this particular individual and not to the Indian Labour Federation?

(e) Will the Honourable Member please make a brief statement as to the measures taken by the Indian Labour Federation during the period it has been

in receipt of the monthly subsidy to achieve the object, e.g., to assist the Government in maintaining the labour morale?

The Honourable Dr B R Ambedkar (a), (b) and (c) Government's attention has been drawn to the statements referred to. From the very beginning the arrangement has been with the Indian Federation of Labour and not with any individual. The attention of the Federation was drawn to Mr Mehta's statements and in reply the Federation has re-affirmed the fact that the arrangement is with the Federation.

(d) As already stated in reply to the preceding question, the grant is publicly made to the Indian Federation of Labour and not personally to Mr M N Roy.

(e) The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to my reply to the second part of part (d) of the preceding question.

Mr Lalchand Navarai The Honourable Member has stated in his reply that the money was given and Mr Jinnadas Mehta, before he went to Philadelphia made a statement that the money was not given. How does the Honourable Member reconcile this inconsistency?

The Honourable Dr B. R. Ambedkar. It is not for me to reconcile the two statements.

Mr Lalchand Navarai Is the Honourable Member correct or not in having made the statement?

The Honourable Dr B. R. Ambedkar. It is not for me to answer that question.

Sardar Sant Singh May I know who is telling this blackest lie, either the Federation or the Government of India?

The Honourable Dr B R Ambedkar My Honourable friend is free to draw any conclusions that he likes.

LICENCES FOR PRODUCTION OF FULL LENGTH ENTERTAINMENT FILMS

33 *Mr. Lalchand Navarai. (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies be pleased to state how many licences for the production of full length entertainment films have been issued since the promulgation of Control Order in India?

(b) Is there any distinction made in giving licences to independent producers and studio owners? If so, why?

(c) Is it a fact that concerns who only rent out their studios to independent producers have themselves been given licences to produce pictures in their own name?

The Honourable Sir M Anzul Huque. (a) The total number of licences issued up to the end of September 1944 is 260.

(b) I would invite the attention of the Honourable Member to the replies to Dr Habibur Rahman's Stated Question No 716, on the 30th March, 1944, wherein I stated the principles on which raw film is licensed. A minimum of two pictures has been fixed for a Studio-owner whereas no such minimum is fixed for an Independent producer. The reason for this differentiation is that a Studio owner is required to shoulder much larger overhead and maintenance expenditure.

(c) No.

Mr Govind V. Deshmukh. May I know if a list of the persons to whom the licences have been given is maintained in the office? If so, will it be placed on the table of the House?

The Honourable Sir M. Anzul Huque. A list is maintained but I will consider whether I will be able to place it on the table of the House.

Mr Lalchand Navarai: Have any representations been made to the Honourable Member with regard to the matter contained in part (c) of my question that only those who pay the rent should be given the licences? What I want to know is whether the Honourable Member has got representations to that effect and whether the statement that I have made in part (c) of the question is correct?

The Honourable Sir M. Anzul Huque. Ever since the economic controls of different commodities has come into force I am flooded with representations of all types. If my Honourable friend would be rather specific, I will try to answer his question.

Mr Lalchand Navarai. Have these representations been held to be unfounded?

The Honourable Sir M. Anzul Huque. I will not say they are unfounded, but so long as the position continues that we have got only a restricted supply of films, we have to give it on certain considerations and principles, and the principles that we have enunciated are what I have stated in reply to the last part of this question.

Mr Govind V. Deshmukh. May I take it that answer to part (c) of this question is 'Yes'?

The Honourable Sir M. Anzul Huque. The answer to that part of the question is 'No'.

PEGGING ACT

34. *Mr. Lalchand Navarai. (a) 'Will the Honourable Member for Commonwealth Relations be pleased to state whether the Pegging Act has been passed?' If so, on what date, and from what date does it come into force?

(b) Has it been passed against the objections having been raised to its enactment by the Asiatics particularly the Indian Nationals?

(c) Are there any relieving features in the Act? If so, which?

(d) What efforts has the Indian Government made to oppose the passing of the Pegging Act or remove its stringent provisions?

(e) Is it a fact that lately one Mr Pathar was sentenced to a fine or a month's hard labour for occupying premises 232, Moor Road, Durban, and that the defence was that he was in occupation before the Pegging Act came into operation?

(f) On what grounds was Mr Pathar found guilty?

(g) What steps do the Government of India propose to take through the British Government to get the alleged undemocratic Pegging Act removed from the Statute Book?

The Honourable Dr N B Khare. (a) The Honourable Member is presumably referring to the Trading and Occupation of Land (Transvaal and Natal) Restriction Act, 1943. This Act received the assent of the officer administering the Government on the 28th April 1943, when it presumably came into force.

(b) Yes

(c) None in the opinion of the Government of India

(d) and (g) As the House is aware, the Government of India had made representations to the Union Government before the passing of the Act. Since then the Government of India also made further representations. The Union Government and representatives of the Indian community have arrived at an Agreement, known as the Pretorius Agreement. Under this Agreement a licensing board composed of two Indian members and two European members with a European with legal training as Chairman is to be established for the regulation of the occupation of property. On the creation of the licensing board the Pegging Legislation is to be withdrawn from the areas to which it has been applied. The Agreement has to be embodied in Legislation and an Ordinance, introduced in the Natal Provincial Council to that end, has now emerged from the Select Committee Stage. The Select Committee has made radical alterations in the Ordinance and further correspondence is now going on with the Union Government as regards future action.

(e) Yes

(f) The Honourable Member's attention is invited to the reply given in this House on the 30th March, 1944, to parts (a) and (b) of Mr K S Gupta's Starred Question No 708. Mr Pathar's defence was not accepted by the court on the ground that the last instalment of the purchase price of the house was not paid until April 1943; so that technically occupation took place after the prescribed date of 22nd March, 1943.

Mr. Lalchand Navarai: I believe a day is going to be allotted during this session for the consideration of the matter with which the Honourable Member is concerned. May I know if this question also will then be debated and whether certain light will be thrown on it?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: Certainly it will be debated.

RESERVATION OF KENYA HIGHLANDS FOR EUROPEANS

35. *Mr Lalchand Navarai: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Commonwealth Relations be pleased to state if it is a fact that Kenya Highlands have been reserved exclusively for Europeans on the ground that that part of the country is suitable for Europeans to cultivate? If so, why are Indians not considered capable to cultivate the highlands?

(b) Is it a fact that this matter went before the Colonial Office? If so, what was the opinion or advice given by the Colonial Office for the benefit of the Indian Nationals?

(c) In view of the fact that Indians helped in civilizing and popularising South Africa, and in view of the acknowledged bravery and loyalty shown by the Indians in the present war, do Government propose to have the Indian Nationals treated better and get them equal rights with the Europeans in the territories and colonies under the supervision and suzerainty of the British Government? If not, has the Indian Government no remedy at all in their hands to come to the relief of the Indian Nationals?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: (a) Indians are not considered incapable of cultivating land in the Highlands but, on the ground that the area suitable for European cultivation is limited, the Highlands have been actually reserved by His Majesty's Government for Europeans only as a matter of administrative convenience.

(b) The Honourable Member's attention is invited to paragraph 8 of Part II of the Kenya White Paper of 1923, the Resolution of the Government of India of July 18, 1923, which accompanied its publication and to the Government of India's press communiqué of the 24th February, 1939, on the Kenya (Highlands) Order-in-Council of 1939. Copies are available in the Assembly Library.

(c) Yes, the Government of India are constantly endeavouring to achieve the objects which the Honourable Member refers to.

Mr. Hoosenbhoy A. Laljee: Will the Honourable Member kindly state whether in the term "Europeans" Germans are also included?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: I believe so.

Mr. Hoosenbhoy A. Laljee: Have they also the right of cultivation in the Highlands?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: Not now.

Sir Vithal N. Chandavarkar: What is the view of the Government of India—whether it is a case of administrative convenience or it is a case of racial discrimination?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: I myself hold the view that it is a case of racial discrimination.

RECONSTRUCTION COMMITTEE FOR BURMA AND COMMITTEE FOR RESTORATION OF PROPERTY OF INDIANS

36. *Dr. Sir Zia-Uddin Ahmad: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Commonwealth Relations be pleased to state whether the Government of Burma have already formed a Reconstruction Committee for Burma and a Committee for the restoration of the property of Indians?

(b) Does the Honourable Member propose to make a statement or to lay a statement on the table of the House about the progress that has been made in this Committee?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: (a) and (b) The Government of Burma appointed various Reconstruction Committees to advise on proposals for the reconstruction of different departments of that Government on the re-occupation of Burma, but no separate Committee was formed to advise on the question of restoration of property of Indians. The Reconstruction Committees so appointed have submitted their reports to the Government of Burma.

who are now considering their recommendations. The Reconstruction Committee on Rural Economy went into the question of action to be taken in regard to the restoration of land to the owners who were in their rightful possession at the time of evacuation and its recommendations in this respect will receive the attention of Government of Burma in due course.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Is the Honourable Member's Department keeping itself in close touch with these activities of the Burma Government?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: Yes.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Have the Government of India formally come into the picture at all now, because I remember on a previous occasion the Honourable Member stated that the Government of India was not participating in these discussions formally? Have the Government of India come formally into this picture as yet?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: Yes.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Will the Honourable Member* instruct the representative who has now been appointed for this purpose to make inquiries and report to us?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: I think that will be part of his ordinary duties.

RESTORATION TO INDIANS OF PROPERTIES LOST BY THEM IN BURMA

37. *Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: (a) In view of the fact that Burma will be recaptured mainly by Indian Forces, does the Honourable Member for Commonwealth Relations propose to press the Burmese Government to restore the properties of the Indians lost by looting, unlawful capture and confiscation by the Japanese?

(b) Is the Honourable Member aware that the Mussalmans and Hindus endowed in Burma both movable and immovable properties for the maintenance of mosques, temples and other charitable institutions? Will the Honourable Member take early steps to ensure that these endowed properties are recovered from unlawful usurpers and restored to the Trustees of the Waqf to be spent in the manner laid down in the Waqf Deed?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: (a) and (b) The Government of India will take up these matters with the Burma Government in due course.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Will these things be considered in the Peace Conference?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: I hope so.

Mr. Lalchand Navalsrai: Will these things be considered through the representative that the Government of India have appointed for Burma or will they be considered through some other independent way?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: Our Representative is the usual channel of our communication and they will be considered through him.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Is he the sole channel of communication between the Government of India and the Government of Burma?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: Not necessarily.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: What will be the matters which will be dealt with by this officer and what are the other matters which will be dealt with independently by the Government of India?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: Sir, that does not arise out of this question at all.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Will the Honourable Member instruct our representative to collect the figures of the losses and find them out and lay before the House the amount of losses sustained by Indians?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: I think it will be done in due course.

DESIRABILITY OF BURMA GOVERNMENT GRANT FOR SCHOOLS FORMERLY MAINTAINED BY ENDOWMENTS IN RANGOON

38. *Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Commonwealth Relations please consider the question of approaching the Burmese

Government to give a grant for the schools which were maintained by the endowments existing in Rangoon and which have now been confiscated by the enemies?'

(b) Is the Honourable Member aware of the fact that some Indian States like Hyderabad and Baroda are giving special assistance to their own subjects who are refugees and evacuees from Burma and Eastern Colonies? Do the Government of India propose to give similar assistance to these people till employment is found for them?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: (a) Government of India do not consider it desirable to approach the Government of Burma

(b) Yes, the Government of India are already giving necessary financial assistance to refugees in British India

Dr Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad. Will the Government of India give some small assistance to the schools which were run by the endowments in Burma?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: That will be considered when the time arrives

ALLOCATION OF EXPENDITURE ON REFUGEES AND EVACUEES BETWEEN GOVERNMENT OF INDIA AND BURMA GOVERNMENT

39. ***Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad** Will the Honourable Member for Commonwealth Relations please state the financial arrangements between the Government of India and the Government of Burma as regards the expenditure incurred by the Indian Exchequer in supporting the refugees and the evacuees?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare The Expenditure incurred on Indians and Anglo-Indians is met from Indian revenues and that on Burmese Anglo-Burmese, European British subjects and all other British subjects other than Indians and Anglo-Indians is charged to the Government of Burma

ANTI-HOARDING BILL

40. ***Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad** (a) Has the Honourable the Food Member seen the Bill (Anti-Hoarding Bill) whose notice was issued by me?

(b) Why does the Honourable Member refuse to allow even the introduction of the Bill?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava (a) Yes

(b) Leave to the introduction of the Bill was refused not by me but by the Governor-General acting in his discretion

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad And on the advice of the Honourable Member?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava I have nothing to add to the answer that I have just now given

PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION OF FOODGRAINS.

†41. ***Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad** (a) Will the Honourable the Food Member please state the total production of foodgrains in the year 1943-44, and what the total consumption was?

(b) What is the total expected production of foodgrain in the year 1944-45, and what is the estimated consumption of the same?

(c) Will the Honourable Member lay a statement on the table giving the production of each foodgrain, provincewise, and also its consumption in each province?

(d) What is the percentage of consumption (i) for army purposes, and (ii) for export to the countries whom India has been feeding for the last fifteen years?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) The total production of cereal foodgrains in 1943-44 was estimated at 57.5 million tons. Total consumption during the year is not known, but in addition to domestic supplies a net import of 289,000 tons of foodgrains was made available during the year

(b) The total expected production of foodgrains in the year 1944-45 is not yet available in respect of all the foodgrains. It is too early yet to estimate

†Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner, having exhausted his quota.

what the production of the *rabī* grains in 1944-45 will be, while information available about *kharif* grains is far from complete

It is not possible to estimate consumption of foodgrains in 1944-45

(c) A statement giving the production of each foodgrains, province-wise, and also total available supply in each province for the year 1943-44 is laid on the table

(d) (i) It is not in the public interest to reveal what proportion of the total supplies were required for army purposes but I may assure the Honourable Member that the percentage was extremely small

(ii) Export to foreign countries in 1943-44 was about 0.08 per cent of the total available in the country

Production, Imports, Exports and net

Area	Production	Imports	(In '000 tons)	
			Exports	Nett available supply
Assam	2,104		91	2,013
Bengal	11,782	347	3	12,126
Bihar	3,372	4	52	3,324
Bombay	836	120		956
C P and Berar	1,812		146	1,666
Madras	4,965	45	85	4,925
Orissa	1,340	1	123	1,227
Punjab (including Delhi)	426	(c) 1	134	293
Sind	501		186	315
U P	1,861		5	1,858
N W F P	(b) 20	2		22
Baluchistan	(b) 15		14	1
Ajmer Merwara	Neg	2		2
Baroda	78	1	..	79
C I States (Bhopal)	6	Neg		6
Bombay States	259	14		273
Eastern States	559		71	488
Hyderabad	355	6		361
Khairpur	3		..	3
Mysore	255	14	1	268
Rampur	9		..	9
Punjab States	(a) 40	..	7	33
Rajputana	(a) 7	1		8
Coorg	69	..	14	55
Kashmir	(a) 322		1	321
Travancore/Cochin	(b) 295	136	..	431
Others		226	3	223
Total	31,302	920	936	31,286

NOTE.—Production figures have been taken from the final forecast for 1943-44 issued by the D C I. and S

(a) Relates to 1942-43 figure supplied by the Governments concerned 1943-44 figure not available

(b) Supplied by the Governments concerned.

(c) Relates to imports into Delhi only

Production, Imports, Exports and nett available supply of Wheat in different Provinces and States during 1943-44

Area	Production	Imports	(In '000 tons)	
			Exports	Nett available supply
Assam	<i>Neg</i>	15		15
Bengal	51	458	5	502
Bihar	453	19	1	471
Bombay	(c) 264	230	5	489
C P and Berar	370	35		405
Madras		43		43
Orissa	2	7		9
Punjab	(c) 3,412		852	2,560
Sind	443	5	131	317
U P	2,525	<i>Neg</i>	96	2,429
N W F P	246	3		249
Delhi	13	7		20
Baluchistan	(b) 50	4		54
Ajmer Morwara	10	14		24
Baroda	54	1		55
C I States	240	4	3	241
Bombay States	(c) 112	16	2	126
Eastern States	15	<i>Neg</i>		15
Hyderabad	77	4		81
Khairpur	43			43
Mysore	<i>Neg</i>	14		14
Rampur	32			32
Punjab States	(c) 525	<i>Neg</i>	163	362
Gwalior	327		<i>Neg</i>	327
Rajputana	476	10	4	482
Travancore/Cochin	<i>Neg</i>	109		109
Kashmir	(a) 116	7		123
Others		479	2	477
Total	9,856	1,482	1,264	10,074

NOTE.—Production figures are based on the final forecast of 1943-44 issued by D C I and S. supplemented by Provincial forecasts where found necessary

(a) Relates to 1942-43 figure supplied by the Government concerned 1943-44 figure not available

(b) Supplied by the Government concerned

(c) The Provincial and State figures have been separated by splitting the combined final forecast figures in the proportion of the 4th forecast estimates

Production of Maize and Barley in different

Province or State	(In '000 tons).	
	Maize	Barley
Bengal	48	48
Bihar	487	495
Bombay	56	2
C P and Berar	102	2
Madras	30	<i>Neg</i>
Orissa	7	1
Punjab	514	210
Sind	1	4
U P	922	1,298
N W F P	203	52
Delhi	<i>Neg.</i>	4
Ajmer-Morwara	7	16
Hyderabad	104	1
Khairpur		1
Total production	2,461	2,134
Foreign imports	(a) 4	(b) 127
Total available supply	2,465	2,261

(a) The whole of this was given to Travancore and Cochin

(b) The break-up of this is given below —

Bengal	26 8
Bombay	34 3
Madras	0 6
W I States	0 1
Baroda	0 2
Deccan	0 1
Hyderabad	0 3
Mysore	1 3
Travancore/Cochin	2 0
Defence Services	16 5
	<hr/> 82 2
Karachi Depot	44 8
	<hr/> 127 0
Total	

Production, Imports, Exports and nett available supply of Millets (Jowar and Bajra) in different Provinces and States during 1943-44

Area	Production	Imports	Exports	(In '000 tons)
				Nett available supply
Baluchistan	18		10	8
Bengal	3	66		69
Bihar	44	Neg		44
Bombay	1,840	106	Neg	1,946
C P and Berar	1,396		7	1,389
Madras	1,766	50		1,816
Orissa	9			9
Punjab	622		127	495
Sind	315		1	314
U P	1,403		46	1,657
N-W F P	21	Neg	Neg	21
Delhi	23	7		30
Ajmer-Merwara	9	2		11
Baroda and Gujrat States	398	11	4	405
C I States	209	6	Neg	215
Bombay States	1,362	27	13	1,376
Hyderabad	1,560		56	1,504
Kharipur	29			29
Mysore	145	1	Neg	146
Punjab States	(a) 353		41	312
Rajputana	(a) 513	7	5	515
Travancore/Cochin	Neg	31		31
Kashmir	(a) 58			58
Others	Neg	3		3
Total	11,796	317	310	11,803

NOTE.—Production figures have been supplied by the D C I and S and the Provincial or State Governments concerned

(a) Relates to 1942-43 figures supplied by the Government concerned 1943-44 figures not available

POLICY RE IMMIGRATION OF JEWS

42. *Sardar Sant Singh: Will the Honourable the Leader of the House be pleased to make a statement as to the policy of the Government of India in regard to immigration of Jews to India with particular reference to the following matters

(i) was the policy initiated by the Government of India or was it done by His Majesty's Government, and

(ii) did the Governor General in Council consider this matter?

- The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: The question should have been addressed to the Honourable the Home Member who will reply in due course.

•LOWER WAGES, ETC., OF INDIAN SEA-MEN EMPLOYED ON BRITISH-OWNED SHIPS.

43. *Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: Will the Honourable the Commerce Member please make a statement with reference to his answer to my starred question No 71 given on the 10th February, 1944 in connection with lower wages, etc., of Indian sea-men employed on British-owned ships, showing the extent to which he has been able to carry out the assurances given by him? If nothing has been done, why?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque. The matter is still under negotiation and discussion.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh. How long it will take?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque. I have been expecting that it will be finally decided as soon as possible.

Mr. N. M. Joshi. How long has the discussion been going on?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: On what point?

Mr. N. M. Joshi. Generally with regard to wages?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque. The wages were increased in June 1942, but the question of further increase of wages was taken up towards the end of September 1942 and the matter is still not settled.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh. In view of the fact that expenses are increasing every day and every hour, will the matter be taken up seriously and promptly dealt with?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque. I can assure my Honourable friend that I have taken up the matter as seriously as possible.

FRANCHISE OF INDIANS IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

44. *Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh. With reference to his answer to my starred question No 395 given on the 14th March 1944 regarding franchise of Indians in British Columbia, will the Honourable Member for Commonwealth Relations please state what the outcome of the correspondence carried on by the Government of India and referred to in my last question (16, No 395) is? Will the whole correspondence between the Government of India and the British Columbian Government be placed on the table?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: The Government of India have made several enquiries since then, the last enquiry being made only last month. I regret we have still no information about the result of our representations. It will not be in the public interest to publish the official correspondence.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: Since representations were made so long ago, what is the explanation for Government not achieving anything for Indians so far?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: I cannot give any explanation.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai. When a discussion of this question takes place on the day allotted for this purpose, will all the questions arising out of all the Colonies be taken up? Will the question relating to Ceylon be discussed?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: No, Sir. We will discuss only South Africa and East Africa.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: The Honourable Member just now said that the correspondence cannot be placed on the table. Will the Honourable Member at least give a gist of the correspondence?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: No, Sir.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: What is the objection to giving a gist of the correspondence that has been carried on?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: The gist is already contained in the reply.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: The House would like to know what representations were made?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: It comes to this. We have made representations and we await reply.

STEPS FOR PERMANENT REHABILITATION OF AGRICULTURE IN INDIA

45. *Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state what steps were taken after he made his speech on the 10th March, 1943 on the cut motion moved by Mr. Lawson "that the demand under the Head 'Executive Council' be reduced by Rs 100' and the means whereby the present prosperous agricultural conditions might be used for the permanent rehabilitation of agriculture in India in respect of—

- (i) the raising of money crops such as pyrethrum and cinchona,
- (ii) agricultural debt,
- (iii) permanent benefit of the agriculturist—planning of production, creation of agricultural credits,
- (iv) fixing of prices of foodgrains to raise the standard of living of the agriculturist, and
- (v) financial policy having no other aim but to make life better for all the people of India of whom about 80 per cent are agriculturists?

Mr J. D. Tyson A statement is laid on the table of the House

Statement

(i) In 1943, 5,600 lbs of Pyrethrum seeds were imported from Kenya (East Africa) and distributed to the Governments of Madras, the Punjab, Assam, Patiala and Kashmir. Government agreed to buy the produce at certain fixed prices. The area under pyrethrum under this scheme is 2358 acres.

As regards cinchona, arrangements have been made for the planting of 2,000 acres with cinchona in 1943 and 1944.

(ii) The question of agricultural indebtedness was considered by the Policy Committee on Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries and is recommended by that Committee the Government of India have appointed a Sub-Committee to report on the ways in which indebtedness can be reduced and finance, both short term and long term provided under efficient control, for agriculture and animal husbandry operations. The report of the Sub-Committee is expected in January.

(iii) The Government of India have given to the provinces for the development of agriculture Rs 285 lakhs as loans and Rs 222 lakhs as grants in the last 2 years. Provincial Governments have probably given similar grants from their own funds. The main items for which grants have been given from the Centre are

Irrigation, bunding, etc., Rs 118.0 lakhs

Munim distribution Rs 27.63 lakhs

Seed distribution Rs 51.76 lakhs

Miscellaneous (staff bonus for cotton restriction, etc.) Rs 24.61 lakhs

All these schemes may be regarded as being for the permanent benefit of agriculturists. The question of planning production is under consideration in consultation with the Food Department. No additional agricultural credits are considered necessary at the present stage though the question of such credits for the post-war period will be looked into by a committee which it is proposed to set up shortly to deal with co-operation.

(iv) In April 1944 the Government of India announced that they were ready to purchase, until further notice, in the Punjab, United Provinces and Sind through provincial government agency, all fair average quality wheat offered in assembling markets at Rs 7.80 per maund unbagged. They also announced in May last that they would be willing to buy from the crop of 1944-45 all *poura* and *barra* of fair average quality offered for sale in the main assembling markets of the United Provinces, Central Provinces, Madras, the Punjab, Sind, and Ajmer-Merwata at prices of Rs 5.80 and Rs 6.10 maund respectively, should prices fall.

On the recommendation of the Policy Committee on Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, a Sub-Committee is being set up to examine how to have an assured market for agricultural produce and how to fix remunerative prices for it in the post-war period.

(v) The Central and Provincial Governments are planning for post-war development on the basis that considerable funds will be available over a period of years. The object of all such expenditure will be to make life better for all the people of India and steps will be taken to ensure that the rural population receive its share of the benefits. In the mean time the Government of India have been engaged in a policy of active assistance to the cultivator by means of loans and grants especially in connection with the "Grow More Food Campaign", as stated in answer to (iii) of the question and grants such as those from the Cotton Fund.

STEPS FOR INCLUSION IN CENTRAL AND PROVINCIAL ELECTORAL ROLLS OF NAMES OF PERSONS IN HIS MAJESTY'S FORCES ON ACTIVE SERVICE

46. *Sir F. E. James: Will the Honourable the Leader of the House be pleased to state

- (a) if he is aware that the names of many persons who are on active service in His Majesty's Forces were removed from the electoral rolls of the

Provincial Legislative Assemblies during the last revision in 1941, because they were absent from their homes and thus had lost their residential qualification,

(b) if he is aware that the revision of the electoral rolls for the Central Legislative Assembly now being undertaken will result in the removal from them of many names of persons on active service in His Majesty's Forces for the same reason,

(c) if it is a fact that unless there is an amendment of the Government of India Act, 1935, and rules thereunder, any revision of the Provincial or Central electoral rolls during and immediately after the war is bound to result in depriving many who are serving in His Majesty's Forces of the vote because of the loss of their residential qualification through absence on active service and in excluding others who would otherwise be qualified,

(d) if His Majesty's Government will be invited to undertake forthwith the necessary amendments of the Government of India Act of 1935 and the Rules thereunder, and

(e) what steps Government propose to take in the meantime to ensure that no person loses his right to vote in any Provincial or Central election, or his right to be included on the appropriate electoral roll in any revision thereof, solely on account of his absence from home on active service with His Majesty's Forces?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: (a), (b) and (c) Yes

(d) and (e) The question is engaging the attention of Government

Sir F. E. James. Does my Honourable friend hope to be in a position to make a statement on the subject before the end of this Session, if I put down another question?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: I cannot make any promise about it, but I will make enquiries, and if it is possible, it will be done

FEES CHARGED FOR DEATH CERTIFICATES FOR PERSONS DYING IN IRWIN HOSPITAL

47 Mr. O. P. Lawson: Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands be pleased to state

(a) whether any limits are prescribed for the fees which may be charged by medical officers in the Irwin Hospital for death certificates for persons who die in that Hospital,

(b) if he is aware that dependents of persons who die in the Irwin Hospital may be unable to obtain access to the estate of the deceased until such death certificate is forthcoming,

(c) whether he is aware that on the 20th of May, 1944, Mr K V Martin died of typhoid in the Irwin Hospital and a sum of Rs 16 was demanded by the Resident Medical Officer before a death certificate could be issued,

(d) what steps he proposes to take to ensure that similar demands are not made in future, and

(e) whether steps will be taken by the authorities to fix the maximum charge for death certificates, and, if so, at what level the maximum will be fixed?

Mr J D Tyson (a), (b) and (c) Yes

(d) and (e) The fee charged was in accordance with the orders which existed at the time. The prescribed fee has since been reduced to Rs 4

Mr. O P Lawson: May I ask the Honourable Member whether he would look into the matter of supplying poor people with the means of getting access to such money as has been left either without any charge at all or with a nominal charge, by some means or other?

Mr. J D Tyson: Yes, Sir, in so far as it relates to death certificates, I would look into it

STATEMENT ON FAMINE CONDITIONS IN BENGAL

48. Mr. K. C. Neogy: (a) Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to make a comprehensive and up-to-date statement, in continuation of the statement made by him, on the famine conditions in Bengal, in reply to my starred question No 11 on the 7th February, 1944, dealing with the different points indicated in the said question?

(b) How have the supplies and prices of principal foodgrains varied in the different districts of Bengal since the above statement was made?

(c) What is the total quantity of foodgrains supplied to Bengal at the instance of the Central Government since January, 1944, and from which different areas were these supplies obtained? What is the system of procurement, storage and distribution of these supplies?

(d) Has the attention of the Central Government or the Honourable Member personally been drawn to various reports regarding the wastage and deterioration of foodgrains due to defective storage or deteriorated quality of supplies at different Government centres in Bengal? If so, will the Honourable Member be pleased to make a detailed statement indicating the nature of each such report, and the facts of the situation?

(e) Is the Honourable Member aware that a general complaint prevails all over Bengal regarding the bad quality of foodgrains supplied under Government control, and that in some past cases at least samples indicated that the supplies were unfit for human consumption? If so, has any enquiry been made at the instance of the Central Government into these complaints?

(f) Is it a fact that in some instances Municipal or other local authorities have not been permitted to exercise their normal functions regarding inquiry into and supervision over the quality of foodstuffs in connection with Government supplies of foodgrains in Bengal?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) I shall be making a comprehensive statement on the food position in the country in the course of the Food Debate today.

(b) Substantial purchases have been made by the Bengal Government under the *Aman* Procurement Scheme which together with the quantities supplied by the Central Government have enabled the Bengal Government to build up considerable stocks in the districts. No acute shortage of foodgrains has been reported from any part of the province during recent months.

The present average of subdivisional rice prices is Rs 12-14-0, as against the controlled price of Rs 13-8-0 in the surplus areas and Rs 14-12-0 in the deficit areas. The trend of prices has been downward during all this period and rice is now available at or within the controlled rates in most of the districts. In Eastern Bengal, particularly in Chittagong, prices at one time rose to Rs 85 per maund, but were brought within reasonable limits by accelerating despatches and releasing Government stocks at controlled rates.

(c) The total quantity of foodgrains supplied to Bengal since January 1st is over 4,75,000 tons. The supplies were obtained mainly from the Punjab, the Punjab States, the Central Provinces, Assam, the United Provinces, Nepal, the Eastern States, Orissa, Sind, Rewa and imports from abroad. The methods of procurement are not uniform in all supplying areas, but generally speaking, supplying areas procure the grain through authorised purchasing agents, which may be governmental agencies or trade agencies, store it wherever necessary and move it to the recipient areas, in accordance with the Basic Plan of the Food Department.

(d) and (e) The Government of India are aware that there have been complaints about poor quality and deterioration of stocks in storage. I propose to supply the information available to the Food Department on these complaints in course of the Food Debate.

(f) My information is that the functions of the Calcutta Corporation in this behalf are now under consideration by the Bengal Government.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: In part (b) the Honourable Member referred to the downward trend of prices. Will he be in a position to explain the reasons, so far as he may be aware of them, for this phenomenon?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I shall deal with that in the course of the debate.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: With regard to (d) and (e) of the question, may I ask whether the appointment of a special storage expert has not in any way improved the position?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: Yes, it has improved, and is improving the position.

Mr. K. O. Neogy. Improving the position of the storage expert, or what?

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: Will the Honourable Member kindly tell us exactly how the improvement has been effected?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I shall deal with that also in the course of the debate.

Mr Akhil Chandra Datta: Is the Honourable Member aware that the District Magistrate of Backergunge has stated in a public meeting that people are dying literally of starvation in the most extensive area of that district?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I am not aware of that.

Mr Akhil Chandra Datta: It has been published in the newspapers. Does not the Honourable Member read them?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I read as many as I can.

STATEMENT ON SUPPLIES OF VEGETABLES, MILK, ETC., IN BENGAL

49. *Mr K. O Neogy (a) Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to place on the table a statement on the lines of that made by him in reply to my starred question No 254 on the 17th November, 1943, bringing the information up-to-date from November, 1943?

(b) Is the Honourable Member in a position to make a statement regarding the prices and availability of milk, milk products, fish, poultry and eggs for the consumption of civil population in the different districts of Bengal during the last few months?

(c) To what extent has the scarcity of supplies of vegetables, milk, milk products, fish, poultry and eggs in the Bengal districts, for the civil population, and their ruling prices been induced, directly or indirectly, by the purchases, made on behalf of the Military authorities, British as well as American?

(d) Is the Honourable Member in a position to confirm the statement made by the War Secretary in reply to my starred question No 292 on the 18th November, 1943, that 'the Army to a large extent is self-supporting as regards potatoes and fresh vegetables leaving the normal produce largely untouched for the civil population', with reference to the situation that has prevailed in Bengal, particularly during the last few months? Is the Honourable Member also in a position to state whether the civil authorities in the districts of Bengal have been regularly consulted by special local purchase officers appointed by the War Department, in regard to the stocks of local vegetables and dairy products as well as the prices to be paid therefor, as indicated by the War Secretary in reply to my said starred question?

(e) What is the policy of the Central Government in regard to the maintenance of adequate supplies for the civil population in the different Provinces, in respect of vegetables, fruits, dairy products, poultry, eggs, fish and meat and the regulation of their prices?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava (a) A statement showing monthly prices of vegetables and fruits in the Calcutta market since November 1943, is laid on the table.

(b) Precise statistics of prices are not available but reports from Calcutta and Districts in Bengal indicate that there has been an upward trend in the prices of these commodities during the last five months. They are available at these prices to the civil population.

(c) It is not possible without an exhaustive economic survey to assess with any exactitude to what extent the scarcity of the supplies of the commodities mentioned in the question has been due to purchases by the military authorities or to what extent purchases by them have affected market prices.

(d) The Army in Bengal is to a very large extent self supporting in vegetables, but not yet in potatoes; since military schemes for growing the latter have not yet begun to operate fully. It is hoped, however, that the military will be largely self-supporting in potatoes from December 1944 onwards.

The civil authorities in Bengal have been consulted regularly by military local purchase officers.

(e) Supply and prices of these commodities are regulated by the Provincial Governments who have got powers under Rule 81 of the Defence of India Rules.

The Food Department have also taken steps to import from abroad supplies of tinned-milk, meat, fish, and other foodstuffs in order to relieve the deficit

To co-ordinate the demands of competing Army Units and the civil population, co-ordination committees have been set up in all the Commands, and these have again set up provincial committees. The function of these committees is to check price inflation due to competitive purchase to regulate supplies in accordance with the resources available without drawing upon the breeding stock or seed requirements. These committees also endeavour to increase production of all these commodities, particularly for meeting the Defence requirements

Average Monthly Prices of Vegetables and Fruits in Calcutta for the period November 1943 to October 1944

—	Unit	November 1943	December 1943	January 1944	February 1944	March 1944	April 1944
		Rs A P	Rs A P	Rs A P	Rs A P	Rs A P	Rs A P
Potatoes (Desi Nainital)	per maund	21 4 0	10 8 0	7 3 2	8 13 6	9 8 0	8 11 6
Cauliflower	each	7 7	0 5 0	0 3 4	0 5 7½	0 8 3	9 11 14
Cabbage	each	1 11 4	0 9 3	0 6 7	0 6 9	0 4 3	0 8 11
Pulbul	per seer	0 8 2	0 9 6	0 8 6	0 8 0*	1 2 0*	0 9 8½
Squash	per seer	0 5 9	0 5 0	0 6 0	0 6 0	0 4 3	0 4 3
Tomato	per seer	1 2 9	0 7 6	0 5 8	0 5 10½	0 4 3	0 4 3
Pineapple (Assam)	per 100	103 0 0	100 10 0	100 15 10	95 0 0	103 13 0	95 10 0
Mangoes (Madras)	per 4 dots	24 0 0	24 0 0		19 7 3	12 0 0	6 10 0
Oranges (Nagpur)	per 100	7 6 6	6 10 8	6 10 8	6 7 3	6 2 6	9 12 0
Apples (Kashmir)	per 100	22 3 7	30 12 3	29 6 7	25 0 0	25 13 0	25 0 0

—	Unit	May 1944	June 1944	July 1944	August 1944	September 1944†	October 1944‡
		Rs A P	Rs A P	Rs A P	Rs A P	Rs A P	Rs A P
Potatoes (Desi Nainital)	per maund	12 3 3	20 1 0	21 4 0	31 4 0	30 5 4	35 0 0
Cauliflower	each	0 12 0†					9 14 0
Cabbage	each	1 4 0	2 0 0	1 3 6	0 13 0	0 13 0	0 13 0
Pulbul	per seer	0 8 3	0 7 3	0 6 0	0 6 6	0 7 4	0 9 0
Squash	per seer		1 0 0†	0 8 6	0 7 0	0 7 0	0 7 0
Tomato	per seer	1 0 0	0 3 8	1 6 6	1 3 0	1 4 0	1 3 0
Pineapple (Assam)	per 100	101 0 3	85 12 0	75 8 3	125 0 0†	215 13 4	240 0 0
Mangoes (Madras)	per 4 dots	3 3 0	4 13 0	9 2 3	6 10 0	10 4 3	12 0 0
Oranges (Nagpur)	per 100	12 3 0	25 0 0	16 10 5	15 1 6	25 0 0	12 8 0
Apples (Kashmir)	per 100	20 0 0*		11 1 9	15 6 0	18 12 0	25 0 0

NOTE.—Controlled prices are quoted for cabbage, squash and tomato from the 24th July, 1944 and for potatoes from the 2nd October, 1944

* Average for one week

† Average for two weeks

‡ Average for three weeks

Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta: As regards the answer to (b) and the statistics of prices, is the Honourable Member aware that the *Statesman* of Calcutta decently published a detailed and elaborate statement showing that the prices of fish, meat, vegetables of all kinds, milk, eggs, *ghose*, etc., have increased by about 100 to 200 per cent over the prices which prevailed during the dire days of famine last year?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I have nothing to add to the answer I have given. I am aware that prices have risen but we hope that once these military schemes are in full operation the prices will come down.

Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta: Is the Honourable Member aware that the food distress in Bengal this year is far more acute than it was during the famine of last year?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: That is not so.

Mr. K. O. Neogy: Will the Honourable Member kindly tell this House whether the Government of India in his Department have any responsibility in regard to the control of prices of the various articles of food I have mentioned in this question, or whether the responsibility of the Department is more or less confined to the provision of foodgrains?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava. The constitutional position is quite well known to my Honourable friend, food is a provincial subject.

Mr K. C. Neogy. Yet we have the phenomenon of a Food Member in this House. Am I to take it that the constitution makes a distinction between rice as a food article, and eggs?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava. No, but my Department is looking into all these commodities and we are trying to do whatever we can to relieve the situation.

Mr K. C. Neogy. That is exactly what I wanted to know from the Honourable Member. What action has the Honourable Member's Department taken for the purpose of studying the extraordinary situation that admittedly prevails in Bengal in regard to these various articles of food, and what powers the Honourable Member himself thinks he has not got for the purpose of controlling the situation?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava. That would be entering into a long debate into various aspects of the matter. But I have already stated in my reply that under our instructions coordination committees have been set up and very soon I hope the military will be totally independent of the ordinary supplies of these commodities for their requirements.

Mr K. C. Neogy. When the Honourable Member mentions the military, does he include in that term what I should like to describe as semi-military personnel engaged directly or indirectly in the promotion of the war effort, or is his reply confined to the military personnel strictly so called?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava. As the supply is increased, I hope the military authorities will be able to give over the stuff even to the civilian population.

Mr K. C. Neogy. That is not the point. I should like to know whether by the term 'military' the Honourable Member means also the non-combatant, the semi-military personnel and organisations like the A. R. P., and so on?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava. I have known in one province at least that the Military has given a lot of stuff for the civilian population. So I suppose—I am not able to answer the Honourable Member's question here and now categorically—but I suppose the Military will meet the requirements of non-combatants too from what they have.

Mr K. C. Neogy. Do I take it that that is not the position so far?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava. I am not able to give an answer straightaway here. Probably they are doing it already.

Mr K. C. Neogy. I hope that the Honourable Member will keep himself better informed on these points hereafter.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava. I am very well informed, as far as possible, on the question.

REMOVAL AFTER THE WAR OF TEMPORARY BUILDINGS CONSTRUCTED IN NEW DELHI

50. *Sir F. E. James: (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state if he aware

(i) that Lord Linlithgow in reply to the farewell address presented by the New Delhi Municipal Committee on the 16th October, 1943, made the following statement

You express anxiety about the removal after the war of the many temporary buildings which must be admitted to mar the beauty of the city. As I announced in my recent speech to the Houses of the Legislature it is the definite policy of the Government of India to remove those buildings as soon as possible. It is the intention that all the temporary buildings that have been constructed for use as offices and hostels, etc., in the neighbourhood of the Secretariat, in the Irwin Stadium, near the Willington aerodrome, in the neighbourhood of Connaught Circus and in various blocks, which under the New Delhi Development Scheme had been allotted for other purposes, will be removed as soon as possible after the cessation of hostilities.

(ii) that His Excellency Lord Wavell in reply to the welcome address presented by the New Delhi Municipal Committee on the 30th October, 1943, made

I can assure you that Her Excellency and I are at one with you in the matter of the removal after the war of temporary buildings. You will recollect that Lord Linnithgow gave you an assurance on behalf of the Government of India.

(b) To what buildings do the intentions of the Government of India as announced by Lord Linnithgow now apply, in view of the construction programme undertaken, since October, 1943?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) Yes.

(b) To all buildings that are of temporary construction and that will interfere with the future development of Delhi. It does not apply to the Lodi Road Officers bungalows constructed in 1941 or to most of the clerks' quarters constructed recently. In particular it does not refer to the large block of clerks' quarters under construction to the south of Lodi Road behind the observatory.

Sir F. E. James: May I know, Sir, who will decide whether the temporary buildings now being constructed will or will not interfere with the development of Delhi?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: Obviously the Government of India. **Sir F. E. James:** May I also enquire if those buildings which he has referred to in his answer, which are not included in the term 'temporary' buildings, are, in fact, being constructed on a permanent basis and at a standard of quality which will justify their being retained as permanent buildings?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: Certainly.

Mr. Lalchand Navarai: May I know from the Honourable Member whether he considers that all the palatial buildings which have been built for Americans also mar the beauty of the city? Are they temporary, and will they be removed after the cessation of hostilities?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: That does not arise out of this question.

Mr. Lalchand Navarai: It does. These buildings—such as those built near the Council House—also mar the beauty of the city.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: The question did not refer to the buildings built for American troops.

Mr. Lalchand Navarai: All these buildings are being constructed by Government.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: The question does not refer to the buildings built for American troops. Therefore the question does not arise.

Mr. President: (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) Next question.

STATEMENT ON FOOD POSITION IN BENGAL

51. ***Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta:** Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to make a full and exhaustive statement on the food position in Bengal (both Districts and Calcutta), and the policy of the Government of India to tackle the problem? Has there been any change in their policy of feeding Calcutta from the Central Government's food reserves and from the surplus Provinces?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: As regards the first part of the question I propose to make a statement today on the food position in India, including Bengal.

As regards the second part, the question what assistance it will be necessary to give Bengal from outside during the next year is under examination.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Will the result of the examination be out before the end of the war?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I hope so.

Mr. K. O. Neogy: May I know if a copy of the report of the Committee which was presided over by Justice Braund is in the hands of the Honourable Member, and, if so, will it be available to Members of this House before the food debate is concluded?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: That is a provincial report, Sir. I will try and see if I can get a copy of it.

Mr. K. O. Neogy: Will it be available to us?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I will first see that it is made available to me

Mr. K. C. Neogy: May I take it that although Justice Braund is an officer of the Central Government

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: He is not now

Mr. K. C. Neogy. He was when he was appointed Chairman of this Committee. Do I take it that the Honourable Member does not expect formally a copy of the Report of this Committee which was presided over by one of his own officers?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: As I have said, that Report has been made to the Bengal Government. They have got to consider it first and then come up to us with their proposals in regard to the recommendations contained in that Report.

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait: Arising out of the reply to the first part of the question. Will the Honourable Member confirm or deny the statement made in his part that so much of foodstuff was destroyed or deteriorated? It will help the Members in making their observations on the question.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I am dealing with that in my speech today directly after the questions.

WASTAGE AND DETERIORATION OF FOODSTUFFS IN BIHAR

52 *Mr.-Akhil Chandra Datta: Has the attention of the Honourable the Food Member been drawn to the following

(i) the colossal waste and deterioration of foodstuff in Bihar totalling about 1,17,786 maunds which was stored last year for export to Bengal but which was not exported and which has now been refused by all Rationing Authorities as unfit for human consumption and which if exported to Bengal, would be sufficient to feed about 40,000 adults for one year,

(ii) the deterioration and waste of a huge quantity of foodstuff—about 1,50,000 maunds of *atta* and *maida* (flour)—now lying with Government stockists in Calcutta in a state unfit for human consumption and now proposed to be sold by the Government for use other than food,

(iii) the deterioration and decomposition of hundreds of bags of rice and *atta* now lying in a decomposed state in the Khulna Railway colony endangering public health, and

(iv) the waste of a huge quantity of foodgrains stocked at the Botanical Garden of Shubpur and which have now been thrown away in a decomposed condition into the Howrah-Belgachia dumping ground?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (i) At the conclusion of the free trade period in the Eastern Zone last year the Government of Bihar agreed to issue permits for the movement of foodgrains to Bengal in all cases where a contract had been executed between the 18th May and 31st July 1943, provided that on or before 31st July 1943 the seller had the foodgrains in his possession and that prior to the date of the contract the foodgrains in question, had not been attached under Rule 75 A of the D. I. R. for any infringement of the food laws. The Provincial Government, however, had reasons to believe that attempts were made to abuse this concession. Accordingly, in November 1943 they issued orders freezing all such stocks. Due to some misunderstanding on the part of some of the District Magistrates in Bihar, a quantity of foodgrains other than those falling under the above category were also frozen. Presumably, these are the stocks referred to by the Honourable Member. These stocks were ordered to be released in August this year and the Government of Bihar have no reason to believe that the foodgrains are not fit for human consumption, nor have any complaints to this effect been received by them from the owners in whose possession the stocks remained throughout this period.

(ii) The actual quantity of *atta* and *maida* involved is 1,48,000 maunds. This quantity represents two per cent of the turnover in eight months since the commencement of rationing on 31st January 1944 the turnover being approximately 1,60,000 tons. Re-conditioning of these stocks was not found to be practicable, and it was accordingly decided to sell them to starch makers.

and jute mills for the manufacture of sizing—this being the normal trade method of disposing of condemned *atta* and flour. Steps are being taken by the Bengal Government to improve their storage arrangements.

(iii) The quantities of foodgrains which had deteriorated in the Khulna Railway Colony are —

	bags		bags
<i>Atta</i>	4,023	Rice . . .	979
Flour	944	Dal	979

Deterioration of these grains was due to damage during transit and storage during rains. The stocks have since been removed from the Khulna Colony.

(iv) 120,000 tons of foodgrains passed through the Botanical Gardens Depot, two and a half per cent or 3,000 tons had to be destroyed through deterioration; a major portion of which had been sold to merchants who failed to remove it.

Mr T. S. Avinashlingam Chettiar: Who bears the loss arising out of this deterioration?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava. The Provincial Government **Mr K. C. Neogy.** Is the Honourable Member aware of a recently reported instance in which a pretty large quantity of wheat was condemned as unfit for human consumption and sold to certain traders for Rs 4 per maund for the purpose of being utilised for food purposes and that this very stock was resold to the Civil Supplies Department at the rate of Rs 20 per maund and subsequently found to be perfectly fit for human consumption?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I would like to have notice of the question.

BENEFITS TO INDIA FROM THE UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND REHABILITATION ADMINISTRATION

53. *Mr. K. C. Neogy* (a) Will the Honourable the Commerce Member be pleased to state whether under the constitution of the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration as now amended, India comes within the scope of operations of that body?

(b) Has the Honourable Member's attention been drawn to a statement made by the Director General of the said Administration that because India is a contributing nation, she cannot be given any relief and that even the extension of that administration's scope to famine-stricken areas militantly important to the United Nations is conditioned by limitations of funds and facilities?

(c) Will the Honourable Member be pleased to make a comprehensive statement on the question of India's participation in the aforesaid Administration and the steps taken by the Government for the purpose of enabling India to benefit by its activities in terms of the express desire of the Central Legislature in this matter?

The Honourable Sir M. Asisul Huque: (a) Under an amendment recently passed by the Council of the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration benefits to be made available through the Administration may be extended to areas which are of importance in military operations of the United Nations and which are stricken by famine or disease, in so far as the resources and facilities of the Administration shall permit. Famine or disease stricken areas in India may, therefore, be included in the scope of the Administration's activities.

(b) I have seen a News Agency report to this effect.

(c) I propose to move a resolution in this Assembly recommending the grant of a contribution to U N R R A. As the whole question will then be discussed, the Honourable Member will perhaps agree to wait until then.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Will that be during the present Session?

The Honourable Sir M. Asisul Huque: I will try.

VISIT TO ENGLAND OF THE COMMERCE SECRETARY, MR N R PILLAI

54. *Mr. K. C. Neogy: Will the Honourable the Commerce Member be pleased to state

(a) the purpose of the visit to England of the Commerce Secretary, Mr N R. Pillai,

(b) whether the Honourable Member's attention has been drawn to Press reports that one of the objects of the Commerce Secretary's visit is to evolve schemes for the partial liquidation of the India's sterling balances held in England through trade methods, and

(c) whether the Commerce Secretary possesses necessary information regarding India's probable future trade requirements, and whether he is expected to supply this information to His Majesty's Government or to organisations of British manufacturers?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque. (a) and (c) The purpose of Mr. Pillai's visit to England is to discuss with the officers of the Departments concerned questions relating generally to commercial policy, shipping, import and export controls, arrangements for the procurement of India's requirements, etc

(b) No

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: What do you mean by "Departments concerned"?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: We are for the time being in contract with His Majesty's Government for the supply of tea. That is taken by the Ministry of Food. But what is going to be done after the war for the supply of tea to the world? This is a matter which requires a lot of preliminary talk before a settlement can be reached. Again we are importing a very large number of goods and we would like to know what are the intentions of His Majesty's Government about them after the war.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Is it the usual practice of the Government to depute officials for discussion with His Majesty's Government rather than have these discussions carried on by correspondence?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: This is the first time I have sent a man from my Department.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Is it not a fact that His Majesty's Government is the sole purchaser of tea?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: It is not the sole purchaser of tea but the sole purchaser of a certain quantity of tea. The rest is entirely available for Indian consumption.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: I do not know whether the Honourable Member has answered part (b) of my question.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I said 'No'.

Mr. Mannu Subedar: Is it not true that the Indian trade people are anxious to know what are the post-war restrictions on trade? Will my Honourable friend explain why steps are taken to let British manufacturers and traders know the mind of the Government of India earlier than the Indian manufacturers and businessmen in India?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I repudiate this suggestion. There is no intention to inform anyone out of India of the Government of India's policy before we know it ourselves and before we can communicate it to the interests concerned. But in order that we may formulate our views, my friend will agree it is always better to know the other side of the picture.

Mr. P. J. Griffiths: With regard to Dr. Zia Uddin's question as to the excessive exports of tea, is it not a fact that, before determining the quantity of tea to be exported, the Government first determine the quantity required for Indian consumption, deduct that from total production and prohibit export in excess of that balance?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: That is correct but my answer to Question 57 may help the Honourable Member. I might say that in the year 1943-44 the total production was 551 million lbs of which only 408 million lbs was for export and we always keep sufficient margin for the home market. So far as tea is concerned, there is a demand that much more tea should go out.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Has the Honourable Member said that the Government of India determine the quantity of tea which they can afford to export?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: So far as tea is concerned, in view of the large consumption, the export of tea from India to the United Kingdom has gone down from 350 million lbs to 270 million lbs in the year 1943-44.

Mr K. C. Neogy: Will the Honourable Member be pleased to give an assurance to this House that he will make a comprehensive statement on this subject after Mr Pillai returns with tips from His Majesty's Government?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I entirely repudiate the suggestion of tips. It is for the purpose of what tips we shall have ourselves. It is tactical to know what the tips are going to be on the other side.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) Next Question

INSUFFICIENT SUPPLIES OF SUPERIOR COTTON TO INDIAN TEXTILE MILLS.

55. *Mr. K. C. Neogy: Will the Honourable the Commerce Member be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian cotton textile mills are handicapped by insufficient supplies of superior cotton,

(b) whether it is a fact that the United Kingdom has a prior claim on Egyptian cotton and that whatever Egyptian cotton is supplied to India is sold to her at a price about 40 per cent above the purchase price for the United Kingdom, and

(c) the average quantity of East African cotton imported into India during the last two years and whether any proportion of these imports are earmarked for production for the Defence services?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque (a) and (b) No

(c) The average annual imports of East African cotton in the last two years ending 31st August 1944 were 150,976 bales. No proportion was earmarked for production for the Defence Services, but mills utilised some of this cotton in executing war orders placed on them.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh. Does the Government of India take a part in fixing the price of this cotton which comes from East Africa?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: It is usually done. For the last two years the representatives of the Government concerned and the representatives of this Government and the representatives of the consuming mills have been brought together in a conference and whatever is arrived at is a matter of agreement among those who consume cotton in this country.

INSUFFICIENT ORDERS FOR TINNED FOOD TO INDIAN MANUFACTURERS

†56. *Mr. R. E. Gupta: Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to state as to why the orders for tinned food are not being placed according to the capacity of Indian manufacturers whose factories are being closed for want of order, while the stuff is being imported from abroad?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava. The Food Department places orders for tinned foods with indigenous manufacturers only for the supply of the demands of the Defence Services. The placing of orders with factories is determined by the requirements of the Defence Forces which fluctuate considerably, the capacity of factories to produce foodstuffs of the quality prescribed by R I A S C specifications and lastly by the availability of raw materials. In considering the last factor the Food Department has to bear in mind the availability of essential supplies for civilian consumption.

TEA SHIPPED FROM INDIA

†57. *Mr. R. E. Gupta: Will the Honourable the Commerce Member be pleased to state the quantity of tea shipped from India on account of the British Ministry of Food and on other accounts in each of the years 1940-41, 1941-42, 1942-43 and 1943-44, and the total production of India in each of these years?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I lay on the table a statement showing the information asked for.

†Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner being absent

Statement

Financial year	Exports of tea from India in mill lbs			
	To U. K.	To other destinations	Total	Production (mill lbs)
1	2	3	4	5
1940-41	315	39	354	471*
1941-42	288	96	384	500*
1942-43	252	76	328	569*
1943-44	270	138	408	551*

*Calendar year

Note —1 Under the Tea Emergency Purchase Scheme the British Ministry of Food purchased teas for U. K. up to the 14th December, 1942. After that date exports of tea on private account (excepting to certain land frontier countries) have ceased and the entire export should be regarded as on account of the British Ministry of Food under the Tea Block Purchase Scheme.

2 The figures in column 1 do not include the full quantity contracted for by the Tea Controller during a calendar year, as shipments by him of the total quantity covered by each year's contract are generally spread over several months beyond the calendar and financial years concerned according to the freight position.

EXPORTS AND MANUFACTURE OF GUNNIES AND HESSIAN

†58. *Mr. R. E. Gupta. Will the Honourable the Commerce Member be pleased to state the quantity of gunnies and hessian exported from India on Government and other accounts in each of the years 1940-41, 1941-42, 1942-43 and 1943-44, and the total manufacture of gunnys and hessian in India in each of these years?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque. The information is being collected and will be placed on the table of the House in due course.

GOVERNMENT CONTRIBUTION TO ASSOCIATIONS OTHER THAN INDIAN LABOUR FEDERATION

59. *Mr. Badri Dutt Pande (a) With reference to starred question No 778 of the 4th April, 1944, regarding monthly grant of Rs 13,000 to the Indian Federation of Labour, will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to give a reply to my supplementary question as to whether there are other Associations which are getting money like the said Federation?

(b) What is the Government control over this money to see that it is being utilised for public purposes?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar. (a) No other labour Association has received financial assistance from Government for this purpose. The letter in which assistance from Government in the matter of propaganda for maintaining morale of labour was offered, was addressed both to the All India Trade Union Congress and the Indian Federation of Labour. In their reply the All India Trade Union Congress did not ask for any assistance.

(b) I would refer the Honourable Member to the replies already given to questions put by Mr. Lalchand Navalrai.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

SLAUGHTER AND EXPORT OF COWS, ETC.

20 Mr. K. C. Neogy: Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please make a statement indicating—

(a) the total extent of slaughter in India of living animals such as cows, buffaloes, bullocks, sheep and goats for the years 1938, 1939, 1940, 1941, 1942, 1943 and 1944, stating the figures separately for each province, and

†Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner being absent.

(b) the total number of living animals under the above categories exported from this country in the years 1940, 1941, 1942, 1943 and 1944, showing separately the destination of these exports to each individual country?

Mr. J. D. Tyson. (a) A statement is laid on the table showing the estimated number of cattle, buffaloes, sheep and goats slaughtered in each province, as given in the Reports of the Agricultural Marketing Officers on the marketing of hides and of skins in India. No other figures for the slaughter of cattle, buffaloes, sheep and goats are available.

(b) A statement showing the number of cattle, sheep and goats exported abroad by sea from British India during 1940, 1941, 1942 and 1943 is placed on the table. Figures showing the numbers exported during 1944 are not yet available.

Statement showing the estimated number of Cattle, Buffaloes, Sheep and Goats slaughtered in the various Provinces per year (in lakhs)

Name of province	Cattle	Buffaloes	Sheep	Goats
Assam	0 5			1 2
Bengal	18 3	0 5	3 5	29 6
Biher	12 4	2 0	2 5	26 0
Bombay	1 7	0 4	13 8	13 9
C P	0 7	0 2	1 1	9 1
Madras	8 5	3 3	38 7	19 7
N. W. F. P.	2 4	1 8	5 3	5 7
Orissa	1 3	0 2	0 7	3 0
Punjab	2 6	1 6	8 9	11 5
Sind	0 2		1 2	4 7
U P	4 8	1 9	13 7	41 1

Statement showing the number of Cattle, Sheep and Goats exported abroad by sea from British India during each calendar year 1940 to 1943

Countries and final destination	Cattle				Sheep and goats			
	1940	1941	1942	1943	1940	1941	1942	1943
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
United Kingdom								
Bahrein Islands	15							
Ceylon	565	1,021	2,292	3,015	25,983	23,609	38,531	77,203
Burma	1,167	1,055			152	52		
Straits Settlements	6					4,239		
Federated Malaya States						200		
Kenya Colony	41	3	4	8				
Tanganyika territory		1						
Seychelles						11		
Iran		16						
Philippine Islands	12							
Total	1,796	2,096	2,296	3,023	26,135	28,111	38,531	77,203

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF MEATS

21. Mr. K. C. Neogy: Will the Honourable Member for Food please state (a) the quantity of meat, dehydrated or of other categories, exported from this country in the years 1942, 1943 and 1944, and

(b) the total amount of meat, dehydrated or of other categories, imported in this country during the years 1940, 1941, 1942, 1943 and 1944?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) and (b) A statement is placed on the table of the House.

<i>Statements</i>				
(a) <i>Exports—</i>				
	1942	—	1943	1944
Tons	1,079		3 663	483
(b) <i>Imports—</i>				
	1940	1941	1942 & 1943	1944
Tons	237	5,475	43,280	55,225
In addition the following quantities of bacon were imported —				
	1942			Tons
	1943			8,545
January—June 1944				1,684
				694

COMMODITIES NOTIFIED UNDER DEFENCE OF INDIA RULES AS ESSENTIAL FOR LIFE

22 Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies please state the commodities notified under the Rules of the Defence of India Act Rules as essential for the life of the community, together with the particulars of those notifications issued either by the Central Government or by the Provincial Governments or by the authorities subordinate?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque No commodity has been notified under the Defence of India Rules as essential for the life of the community, but action has been taken under these Rules to control distribution, prices, etc., of a large number of commodities because such action was considered to be essential for the life of the community. The number of orders and notifications issued in this connection is so large that the time and labour involved in giving the detailed particulars of each of these notifications and orders would be incommensurate with the value of the information so collected.

MOTIONS FOR ADJOURNMENT

UNSATISFACTORY CHARACTER OF RAILWAY BOARD NOTIFICATION BY REVISED RATES OF DEARNESS ALLOWANCE

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) The first adjournment motion today is in the name of Mr. Joshi who wishes to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance, namely, the unsatisfactory character of the notification dated the 2nd October 1944, issued by the Railway Board regarding the revised rates of Dearness Allowance sanctioned from the 1st July, 1944.

Mr. N. M. Joshi (Nominated Non-Official) The exact complaint is that in this notification the Government of India have introduced certain new classes for whom dearness allowance is being given and omitted, in the case of certain other classes of railway servants, to give any increase in their dearness allowance. This is the unsatisfactory nature of the proposal in the notification.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall (Member for Railways and War Transport) Sir, I submit that there is nothing new in this policy which has been frequently and fully discussed before this House. This is the fifth liberalisation of the Dearness Allowance scheme which comprises benefits both in cash and in kind. The present scheme covers increases in one way or another to all classes of railwaymen up to a salary of Rs. 1,000. I think the Honourable Member has not paid attention to the other notifications which have widened the scope of the allowance and given benefits amounting to something like two and a half crores to the classes of people who, Mr. Joshi says, did not receive any benefit. Therefore I submit that there is no occasion to debate the subject on an adjournment motion.

Mr. N. M. Joshi I do not accept that plea of the Honourable Member. He has introduced new classes of railway servants for giving dearness allowance. My complaint is that he has not given sufficient dearness allowance to certain other classes. He says that the policy is not a new one. I know that the Government of India's policy is to treat their poorly paid employees worse than how they treat their well-paid ones. Therefore I am not complaining about the policy, because the policy has always been bad. I am complaining of the details.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) On the facts stated by the Honourable the Railway Member I hold that there is not sufficient justification for a discussion of this motion, and I therefore disallow it

FAILURE TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE FACILITIES FOR SAFE TRAVEL OF CIVILIAN PUBLIC

Mr President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) The next adjournment motion is one by Mr K S Gupta relating to "the failure of the Government of India to provide adequate facilities and make proper arrangements for the safe travel of the civilian public, instead of encouraging civilians sitting perched precariously on roof-tops, standing on foot boards and hanging on to the windows of the railway carriages, having failed to get accommodation inside the trains during their travel from place to place and thereby causing serious loss of life and limb as reported daily of occurrences here, there and everywhere in India, with special reference to incidents on the East Indian Railway reported by A P I from Patna on 25th May, 1944 "

I should like to know whether there is any objection to this motion

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall Yes, Sir, I must object to this adjournment motion There is nothing new in the position which has been debated very fully in this House during the course of the last Session and the general facts are well known to the House

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) How long has this state of things been going on?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall Since 1942 In the matter of dealing with this we are guided by the advice of the Central Advisory Council for Railways which has twice discussed this subject and I am quite prepared to put the matter before them again during this Session, if they wish it

Mr. K. S Gupta (Ganjam cum Vizagapatam Non-Muhammader Rural) I withdraw the motion, Sir, as I am not going to move it

FAILURE TO CHECK EPIDEMICS LIKE CHOLERA, ETC.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) There is another adjournment motion by Mr K S Gupta which relates to "the failure of the Government of India to provide adequate facilities to prevent or check the epidemics like cholera, malaria (malignant type), typhoid (fatal in most cases) and dysentery, thereby causing serious loss of life as a result of malnutrition caused by inadequate supply of foodgrains (rice—the staple food) unfit for human consumption in the Area devastated by successive cyclones of 1942 and 1943, including the coastal belt of Ganjam (Ex) and Vizagapatam districts of Madras Province "

The subject of this motion relates to the supply of foodgrains which is to be debated in the House today I therefore disallow it

POSITION OF INDIANS IN NATAL UNDER NATAL OCCUPATION ORDINANCE

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) The next motion for adjournment is one by Mr Govind V Deshmukh relating to "the situation created for Indians in Natal by the Natal Occupation Ordinance, i.e., the Ordinance providing for the control of the occupation and acquisition of residential and other property in Natal"

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare (Member for Commonwealth Relations) This can be debated on the day on which the whole question will be debated

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) Has a date been fixed for the discussion of this question?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed (Leader of the House) The date has not been fixed yet, though it has been decided to allot a date as early as possible

Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai (Bombay Northern Divisions Non-Muhammader Rural) I understand that the 6th has been fixed for the discussion of this subject

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed Yes, that will suit

DEATH OF MR SRIDEO SUMAN, AN EXILE FROM TEHRI STATE

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) The next one is an adjournment motion by Mr B D Pande relating to "the mysterious death of Mr Srideo Suman, an exile from the Tehri State in the Tehri prison after a hunger strike of 50 days on the 25th July, 1944"

As the motion relates to Tehri, which is an Indian State, the consent of the Governor General is necessary. The Governor General has refused his consent.

INADEQUATE WAR ALLOWANCE FOR NON-GAZETTED OFFICERS

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) This adjournment motion is by Mr A C Datta and relates to "the failure of the Government of India to extend to the non-gazetted officers of the Central Services the benefits of war allowance to the same extent to which these have been given to the gazetted officers (*vide*, Finance Department Office Memorandum No F 2(52) W/44, dated the 25th September, 1944)"

What does the Honourable Member mean by the phrase "to the same extent"?

Mr Akhil Chandra Datta (Chitagon and Rajshahi Divisions Non-Muhammadan Rural) I mean, Sir, the same proportion.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) What is the exact meaning of the expression?

Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta The recent circular of the Government of India has given relief to the gazetted officers in the shape of a war allowance but none is given to the lower paid non-gazetted staff.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) Is it an equivalent or substitute for the dearness allowance?

Mr Akhil Chandra Datta So far as the gazetted officers are concerned there was no dearness allowance but with respect to the low-paid Government employees there was a dearness allowance. Substantial relief has been given to the higher paid officers but none to the low-paid non-gazetted officers.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman (Finance Member) The position is that dearness allowance was being given to classes of Government servants drawing pay up to Rs 250, Rs 200 and Rs 150 in areas classified as A, B and C, respectively. The War Allowance is an extension of the principle of Dearness Allowance to higher classes of Government servants. It takes the principle of relief up to a pay of Rs 1,000 a month for married officers. Now, Sir, the war allowance is 10 per cent for married officers and 5 per cent for unmarried officers.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) Does it apply equally to gazetted and non-gazetted officers?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman I think it does, except that for gazetted officers it is subject to a minimum. Otherwise, where the dearness allowance is less than 10 per cent the establishments concerned, instead of getting the dearness allowance, may get the percentage war allowance instead. The only difference is that there is a minimum in the case of this war allowance.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) What is the minimum?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman The minimum for married officers is Rs 50 and for unmarried officers the 5 per cent is subject to a minimum of Rs 30.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) That is for all gazetted as well as non-gazetted?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman No. That is the war allowance for gazetted officers. Broadly speaking, wherever the establishment which is at present getting a dearness allowance, will be better off by getting a war allowance of 10 per cent, then they get the percentage war allowance. That I understand to be the position.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) What is this difference between gazetted and non-gazetted—those who are not receiving the dearness allowance?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Non-gazetted officers of the central services will receive dearness allowance at the existing rates or a war allowance of 10 per cent of pay, whichever is greater. Therefore I suggest that it is not correct to imply that the relief is being denied to the non-gazetted officers.

Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta: A distinction is obviously made between gazetted and non-gazetted officers.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) The allowance is in proportion to the pay?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Yes, subject to a minimum as regards gazetted officers. As regards non-gazetted officers it is 10 per cent, where the dearness allowance is more than 10 per cent, then I understand that the dearness allowance will be given.

Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta: In their case this 10 per cent becomes illusory.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: These are matters of detail, there is no question of principle involved.

Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta: The anomalous result that follows is this.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) I want to know whether there is special hardship caused by any invidious distinction.

Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta: An invidious distinction has been made.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) I take it that, generally speaking, gazetted officers receive higher salaries than non-gazetted officers. Is that so?

Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta: That is true. I say that a gazetted officer and a non-gazetted officer getting, say, Rs 280 have been treated differentially by this recent order.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) The pay is also different.

Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta: I say the pay is the same. I am taking the case of a gazetted and a non-gazetted officer, both drawing Rs 250. The result with regard to the first officer is that he gets more and the second (non-gazetted officer) gets less.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) How much more?

Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta: The difference is this: the gazetted officer drawing Rs 250 gets Rs 50, while the non-gazetted officer drawing Rs 250 gets only Rs 25. The difference is between Rs 25 and Rs 50, although both are getting the same pay.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Yes, that particular case is correct. That is due to the operation of the minimum provision. The minimum provision is the same throughout the scale for gazetted officers—it applies right up to Rs one thousand. The 10 per cent war allowance is subject to a minimum in the case of married officers of Rs 50, and the 5 per cent war allowance is subject to a minimum of Rs 30. The result is that in certain cases the non-gazetted officer will find that his dearness allowance is less than the war allowance given to gazetted officers, but I submit that it is merely one feature in the general scheme and is not a matter of principle.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) If the Honourable Member is advised that there is an anomaly, it can be reconsidered, I suppose?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I cannot say at this moment that I am prepared to reconsider that particular feature, but it is a matter which will no doubt come under consideration. The dearness allowance, I must point out, has come under constant review, as in the case of the Railway Department.

Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta: We are now concerned with the present position.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: They come under constant review in accordance with the policy of granting relief to our staff. It may be that at any particular moment there will be anomalies but that does not in my opinion raise a question of principle.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) I do not think a matter like this is a fit subject for an adjournment motion. The whole scheme has to be considered together, and if there is an anomaly in any particular respect, no doubt on the next reconsideration the anomaly may possibly be removed.

Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta May I have an assurance in that respect from the Honourable Member?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) He has said that it is under constant review.

Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta This is only about the non-gazetted officers.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman I say that the whole matter is one which is constantly under the consideration of the Government.

HUNGER STRIKE BY POLITICAL PRISONERS IN BHAGALPORE CAMP JAIL

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) The next one is in the name of Mr. Satyanarayan Sinha. He wishes to discuss "the serious situation in the Bhagalpore Camp Jail which has led to the hunger strike of the political prisoners lodged therein."

I should like to know more details of this. Is that not a matter for the Provincial Government—jail administration?

Mr. Satya Narayan Sinha (Darbhanga *cum* Saran Non-Muhammadian) Section 93 is operating there—there is no provincial ministry.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) I am afraid that is under the law. It cannot be discussed here.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) The next is in the name of Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam, the Honourable Member does not want to move it.

Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam (Surina Valley *cum* Shillong Non-Muhammadian) No, Sir.

DISCONTINUANCE OF RACING DAYS ON RESTAURANT CAR ON THE POONA EXPRESS

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) The next one also is in the name of Mr. Dam. He wants to discuss "the grave impropriety on the part of the G. I. P. Railway administration in discontinuing on racing days the Restaurant Car usually attached to the Poona Express between Poona and Bombay and using it for the benefit of the racing community and the gamblers who attend the races at Poona during the monsoon."

I do not think it is a matter of so much importance that the business of the House should be adjourned on that account.

NON-REPRESENTATIVE DELEGATION TO WORLD MONETARY CONFERENCE IN AMERICA

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) The next one is also in the name of Mr. Dam. He wishes to discuss the action of the Government in sending a non-representative delegation to the World Monetary Conference in America in July last by excluding from that Delegation representatives of scientific economic thought and of the common men who are most vitally affected by the deliberations of that World Conference.

I think this is a notice that was originally given by Mr. Jammadas Mehta and he did not move it. I should like to know who are the members of this delegation.

Mr. Jammadas M. Mehta (Bombay Central Division Non-Muhammadian Rural) May I inform you Sir, that the members of this delegation were

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) I want to know it from the Honourable Mover.

Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam I do not want to move it, Sir.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) I think there must have been some misunderstanding about the ruling I gave—I think in the last Session—in which I admitted a motion of a somewhat similar character, and I

want to explain what I meant regarding motions of this character. The motion that I admitted last Session related to the selection of certain non-official gentlemen who were sent by the Government of India to explain the war efforts of the Government of India to Britain and America. If there has been any misunderstanding that the admission of that motion meant that it is not the responsibility of the Government of India to make the selection in such cases but that they are bound to consult any particular representative bodies, then I must make it clear that I did not mean to lay down any such proposition. It is the primary responsibility of the Government to make the selection, though in a proper case it is the right of this House to call in question any action taken by the Government in this respect. In the other case, the question involved was one of a character which raised political issues on which a large section of the House differed from the Government of India and that was the main ground on which I admitted that motion.

CENTRAL PROVINCES GOVERNMENT SERVANTS AID TO CONVERSION OF CHRISTIANITY

Mr President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) The next motion is also in the name of Mr Ananga Mohan Dam. There was also a motion in the name of Mr Jumnadas Mehta. It wants to discuss of Government servants in C P aiding and abetting the Christian Missionaries in that province in forcibly and fraudulently converting the Gonds to Christianity.

I do not know what the exact position is. I think the Government Member will be able to explain.

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie (Home Member) This is entirely a provincial matter. The Provincial Government are responsible for the conduct of their own servants. We cannot interfere. As regards conversion, it is either lawful or unlawful. If it is unlawful, as the allegation is, and if converts were obtained by force or fraud, that is entirely for the Provincial Government who are responsible for the administration of the criminal law.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) This seems to be the responsibility of the Provincial Government—to see that their servants do not misbehave in the way alleged.

BAN

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) The next motion is in the names of Mr Nilakantha Das and Mr Dam. It seeks to discuss the action of the Government of India in placing a ban and limitation on the publication of the Panchangus (Religious Calendars) which are essential for the observance of the religious and social ceremonies of the Hindus all over India.

When did this happen?

Mr Ananga Mohan Dam I do not wish to move it.

(Mr Das was absent.)

FORCIBLE ENTRY BY POLICE AT THE LAHORE MEETING OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL OF ALL-INDIA RAILWAYMEN'S FEDERATION

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) The next one is also in the name of Mr Ananga Mohan Dam. He wants to discuss the great resentment and indignation prevailing among 8 lakhs of Railwaymen all over India at the action of the Punjab Government in forcing the presence of C I D reporters supported by a force of police constables both armed and unarmed at Barkat Ali Khan Hall, Lahore, at a private general meeting of the General Council of the All-India Railwaymen's Federation on the 16th September 1944 and thereby interfering with and preventing the transaction of legitimate business of a body which has been recognised by the Government of India for the last fifteen years as an organisation of

[Mr. President]

This action is an action of the Local Government of the Punjab which is responsible for law and order. It cannot be discussed here. The motion is disallowed.

RUNNING OF COMPETITIVE ROAD-TRANSPORT SERVICES BY RAILWAYS FOR MONOPOLY SIND

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdul Rahim) The next one is in the name of Sardar Sant Singh. He wishes to discuss "the transport policy of the Government of India as disclosed by the Railway Board's letter No 9088TX, dated 17th April 1944, which in practice amounts to the ousting of the Public individual or Company operators—who are solely responsible for the development of this industry in India—from the road and obtain a monopoly of this field as exemplified by the recent project of the N W Railway to run competitive petrol driven goods services between Lahore, Pathankot and Nagrota as against private gas plant driven services."

I have not seen the notification. Will the Honourable Member acquaint the House with the purport of it?

Sardar Sant Singh (West Punjab Sikh) The letter of the Railway Board, No 9088TX, dated the 17th April, 1944, related to the running of road services for passengers and goods to afford relief on routes where railways are congested. In this letter it is stated (these are the notions which are relevant to the adjournment motion) that large numbers of chassis were coming to India from America on lend-lease. It says:

"Nearly 9,000 will have been released by the end of March, and releases thereafter are expected to be at the rate of not less than 1,200 monthly. Past releases have mainly been absorbed for special war purposes, future releases are expected to be increasingly available for general transport of passengers and goods, and the question is how far railways should participate in operating these vehicles and how far they should be released for independent operation."

Then, in the course of the same letter they say:

"The Government of India have not formed final opinion on the latter report but they have decided that it is in the public interest that the available vehicles should, as far as circumstances permit, be used by or in conjunction with railways for goods or passenger transport where needed for high priority traffic for relieving congested sections of railways and generally for relief to the public on routes where road and rail facilities are now together unequal to the essential needs of the community."

Later on, in the course of the same letter, they have stated:

"The Controller of Capital Issues has agreed in principle to sanction new flotations for amalgamations of transport concerns and it seems probable that developments along these lines during the next 12 months will be substantial. With such amalgamation, the danger of a recurrence of cut-throat competition is much reduced and it should at any future time be possible for railways to enter into mutual agreements with such companies and eventually to require a substantial financial interest in them, operating on the main routes served by the Railways."

In the course of the debate on the Motor Vehicles Bill, Sir K. G. Mitchell, on behalf of the Government of India, denied that the Bill enjoined forced partnership between Motor Transport and State Railways. Here is an instance in which the Railway Transport is taking advantage of the position created in the country, because of the control they have over the imports of vehicles. They are forcing their partnership on the private bus companies who are carrying on business. This is against the policy enunciated in the course of the debate on the Motor Vehicles Bill. In my address as President of the Motor Union held at Lahore, I have pleaded the cause of the motor unions and have criticised this policy of the Railway Transport which goes against the declared wishes of two Viceroys who made speeches on this subject. Therefore, this new policy which is adopted by the Railway Transport deserves to be censured by this House. That is my case.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Sir, it is well-known that for a long time railways have been pressed to do what they can to afford relief to rail transport. In pursuance of that they have undertaken, as I have said on several

occasions publicly, to do what they can to initiate road services to relieve both passengers and goods congestion

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) When was this policy announced?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall I will just explain the circumstances as my Honourable friend has spoken at length. In pursuance of that policy in the Punjab, we consulted with the Punjab Government and with the commercial interests in the Punjab and having due regard to the interests of the private companies, we came to the conclusion that one of the best routes on which to relieve congestion would be this particular route to which my Honourable friend takes exception. The railways were, therefore, accordingly allotted ten lorries out of about 60 which were being allotted not by us but by the Provincial Motor Transport Controller. It will be seen, therefore, that there is no intention whatsoever on behalf of the railways to obtain a monopoly, that we have co-operated with the commercial interests and that we are attempting to safeguard the interests of the small owner in this matter. If there is any difficulty about producer gas *versus* petrol, I will give an undertaking to my friend to see that there is no discrimination on that score.

As regards the main question, there is nothing new in this policy which has been referred to on previous occasions, in my Budget speech and in the debate on post-war policy. Incidentally, the matter has been before the Standing Finance Committee, who have approved the policy for the period of the present emergency. The House will have an opportunity to discuss the policy in so far as the post-war policy is concerned and I submit that this is not the occasion to initiate a general discussion on the policy.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad (United Provinces Southern Divisions, Muhammadan Rural) May I say a few words in this connection? The Assembly has repeatedly asserted that the railways ought not to take share in the running of the buses nor should they purchase the shares. If the railway administration wanted to depart from this policy, the Railway Member ought to have moved a Resolution in this House and taken the permission of the House to depart from the policy which this Assembly has established.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) It is a very wide question.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall I am quite prepared to have this discussed at the proper time.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) The motion raised a wide question of policy and the facts stated by the Honourable the War Transport Member show that the matter cannot be discussed properly on an adjournment motion and the House will have an opportunity to discuss it later. So, I rule it out of order.

STOPPING THE BOOKING OF PASSENGERS TO NANKANA SAHIB ON GURU NANAK'S BIRTHDAY ANNIVERSARY

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) The next motion for the adjournment of the business of the House also stands in the name of Sardar Sant Singh. He wishes to 'censure the Government for stopping the booking of passengers to Nankana Sahib Railway Station on the North Western Railway on the auspicious occasion of Guru Nanak's birthday anniversary and for abdicating their authority in favour of the executive of the Punjab by giving powers to District Magistrates to issue permits to pilgrims'.

Is not that a proper function of the Local Government?

Sardar Sant Singh: The position is this that on the anniversary of the birthday of Guru Nanak a big fair takes place at Nankana Sahib, which is a railway station on the North Western Railway. The railway authorities stopped the booking between Lahore and a certain station on Jallianwala line which is called Tandawala.

Sardar Sant Singh: On the General Manager's order. This ought not to have been done because of the importance of the fair and other considerations which are stated in my speech. The second grievance is that they abdicated their authority. Instead of issuing permits themselves, the railway authorities allowed the District Magistrate to issue the permits. I cannot understand how the booking can be regulated by the order of a District Magistrate. It is the function of the railway authorities to see that the passengers get the convenience as far as the accommodation is available, but I really fail to understand why they should hand over their powers to the District Magistrate to be exercised by them in order to issue permits. This is my case. The Government deserves to be censured and severely censured on the point because we find there is a tendency on the part of the Central Government to hand over their power to the Provincial Government and say that it is their duty and not that of the Railways.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Sir, I submit that there is nothing new in this question, the principle of which was debated on the floor of the House arising out of a similar situation which arose in Madras, I think in the course of the last Session. The order is, of course, put out by the Provincial Government and the Provincial Government prescribed that the following classes of persons are excluded from the application of their order. Government servants on duty, genuine residents of the locality served by specified railway stations possessing a Magistrate's certificate to that effect and persons possessing certificates, issued by the District Magistrate of Shukhupura or by any other Magistrate empowered by him in that behalf to the effect that their presence is required to assist in the running of the *mela*.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) Why was this restriction placed?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: It was placed in pursuance of the general policy of trying to relieve congestion on the railways, for which the House and the public have been pressing again and again.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) Why was the power delegated to the District Magistrate?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: It is the Provincial Government which is in the best position to know whether it is desirable to allow congestion or not.

Sardar Sant Singh: May I say a word, Sir? The Honourable Member has not explained whether the stopping of booking was done by the General Manager of the North-Western Railway or by the Provincial Government. Secondly, why did he agree to the permits being issued by the Provincial authority instead of issuing them by the railways? He has not explained that.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: It was an order of the Provincial Government which the railways were carrying out. The railways themselves do not issue such orders which are made by the Provincial Government.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) As stated by the Honourable the War Transport Member, I do not think the position taken up by Sardar Sant Singh is the right one and I disallow the motion.

FREQUENT DISALLOWANCE BY THE GOVERNOR GENERAL OF MOTIONS IN THE ASSEMBLY REQUIRING HIS PREVIOUS CONSENT

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) The next motion is also in the name of Sardar Sant Singh. He wishes to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance, namely, "the passive acceptance without protest by the Government of India of the increasing and frequent use of discretion by Governor General to disallow those motions in the Assembly requiring Governor-General's previous consent without regard to the fact that some of them vitally affect the interests of India and concern the welfare of the people of this country—particularly the disallowance of Sardar Sant Singh's question asking for information whether Jews have been permitted to be settled in a Native State in

India—and the resolution purporting to convey the disapproval of the House to the frequent use of Section 72 of the Government of India Act in issuing Ordinances over the head of the Assembly”

The motion is of a very general character and it really raises a large constitutional question. I gave my ruling yesterday that motions of this character cannot be moved in this House. I, therefore, hold that this motion is not in order.

Sardar Sant Singh: May I know, Sir, then, what is the other method of protesting against this frequent use of section 72 of the Government of India Act?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) I think the Honourable Member ought to get the Act changed.

ILL-TREATMENT METED OUT TO MR. RAM CHARAN AGRAWAL BY THE DELHI POLICE

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) The next motion for adjournment is in the name of Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall. He wishes to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance, namely, the revengeful conduct of the Delhi Kotwali Police in handcuffing Mr. Ram Charan Agrawal, a respectable citizen of Delhi and making him march on foot from Kotwali to the jail and refusing him the use of pillow while allowing a wrapper and a *gadda* and keeping him without food for a day and half against the declared policy and practice of the Government with regard to the treatment of political prisoner.

I wish to know what the Government Member has to say on this motion.

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I am afraid I have no information on this. I have called for information and I have not yet received it. I should like to know the date of this occurrence.

Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall (Bhagalpur, Purnea and the Sonthal Parganas Non-Muhammadian) It happened about 10th October, 1944.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) This motion will stand over till tomorrow. I suppose the Honourable Home Member will be able to get the information by then.

DEATHS DUE TO AN ACCIDENT AT BAKHTIARPUR JUNCTION STATION

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) The next motion is in the name of Mr. Muhammad Nauman. He wishes to discuss a matter of urgent public importance, *viz.*, criminal negligence of the E. I. Railway administration in not having provided lights at Bakhtiarpur Junction Station and allowing empty special train to run without searchlight on the engine on the 26th of September 1944, which resulted in the death of nine persons who were run over by the said special train when these persons were attempting to catch the 14-Up Express at about 8-30 p.m. and further failure of the E. I. Railway administration in not having instituted a public enquiry into the said accident.

I should like to know what the facts are.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Sir, the position is that an accident took place on 25th September. It was very regrettable that seven people were killed and two died later. The facts of the case were that these people who were coming from a pilgrimage jumped on the line from the platform and attempted to get into a standing train on the wrong side of the line. They were therefore trespassing on the line.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) Has any enquiry been made?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: There was an enquiry by Senior officers of the Railway and also by the Government Inspector of Railways, who, of course, is not under the Railway Board.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) What is the finding?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: It was found that no railway staff have been held responsible for the accident which was entirely due to the passengers in question not using the overbridge to cross from the up to the down

[Sir Edward Benthall]
platform, but jumping on the up track from the high level platform without heeding the approaching empty coaching special

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) The allegation is that there was no searchlight on the engine

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Searchlights are provided only for the guidance of the driver and they are not intended to serve the purpose of warning trespassers off the line

Mr. Muhammad Nauman (Patna and Chota Nagpur cum Orissa Muhammadan) How do you explain the fact that there were no lights on the Bakhtiar-pur railway platform on that day and probably there were no lights on the platform for months together This was responsible for people not knowing where to go and trying to cross over the line and trying to catch the 14-Down Express

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) There is an overbridge.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: Yes But the overbridge is at a distance, and the train was already on the platform, and perhaps the people thought it would be easier for them to catch 14-Down Express which was already standing on the other platform and hence they crossed the line to get into the train The platform itself is not very high and it was very easy for them to cross Of these nine passengers, seven were Muslim women who were coming from a *mela* and they were bound for Monghyre

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) Could they not use the overbridge?

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: But they could not see the overbridge There was no light of any kind The train was standing on the platform There was no searchlight on the engine also

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) Is it the practice to have searchlight on the engine?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The practice is to have a searchlight on the engine so that the driver can see if there are any obstacles on the track. It is not to warn passengers Very often the searchlight is put out when it is not necessary or desirable for the driver to use it

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: How do you explain that there was no light on the platform or a searchlight on the Engine?

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan (Agra Division Muhammadan Rural) I hope the Honourable Member for War Transport will excuse me if I point out that this searchlight was put at my suggestion as far back as 1922 or 1923 At that time there was a big accident This searchlight is not for the benefit of the driver alone, it is also for the benefit of the passengers who may have to cross over to the other side so that they may know what is happening on the line The searchlight has been used for a long time past to warn passengers also to keep off the track It is not merely for the benefit of the driver to see what is happening and whether the track is in proper order or not

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) I admit the motion as being in order It will be taken up at four of the Clock

NOMINATION OF THE PANEL OF CHAIRMEN

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) I have to inform the House that under sub-rule (1) of rule 8 of the Indian Legislative Rules, I nominate Mr Abdul Qayyum, Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan, Mr K C Neogy and Sir Henry Richardson on the Panel of Chairmen for the current Session

COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) I have to announce that under sub-order (1) of Standing Order 80 of the Legislative Assembly Standing

Orders the following Honourable Members will form the Committee on Petitions, namely (1) Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan, (2) Mr Govind V Deshmukh, (3) Mr N M Joshi, (4) Sardar Sant Singh

According to the provision of the same Standing Order the Deputy President, will be the Chairman of the Committee

PRESENTATION OF THE REPORT OF THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman (Finance Member) Sir, I present the Report* of the Public Accounts Committee on the Accounts of 1942-43

MOTION RE FOOD SITUATION

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava (Food Member) Sir, I move
"That the food situation in India be taken into consideration"

Sir, it is now nearly a year since I made my last statement in this House on the food situation in India. I have no doubt that Honourable Members would like to have from me an up-to-date review of the position since then. It would perhaps be best if I were to give the House a brief review of the conditions in the main deficit areas. Bengal was in the grip of famine last year and it is not necessary for me to repeat an account of the causes that led to this distressing situation nor give a statement of the steps taken by the Government of India last year to remedy the situation. The end of last year saw the appearance perhaps of the biggest harvest that the province of Bengal had ever seen. Nature was evidently merciful after the devastation it caused in the preceding harvest. But confidence was lacking in the Province. The public had not yet recovered from the shocks that they had sustained in the preceding months and some urgent action was necessary to restore public confidence and assist the Government of Bengal to procure a substantial portion of the new crop and make it available to its deficit districts at reasonable rates. That was why the Government of India undertook to feed Calcutta for a period of 12 months and thus relieve the Bengal Government from the strain of having to procure food supplies for Calcutta. As originally estimated, this undertaking was calculated to involve 646,000 tons of foodgrains of which 246,000 tons were in the form of rice and 340,000 tons in the form of wheat. I may say that up to date a total quantity of 475,000 tons has been moved to Calcutta of which 223,000 tons consist of wheat and 174,000 tons of rice. In the meanwhile the Bengal Government went ahead with the scheme of their local procurements. They anticipated being able to procure a total of 700,000 tons and I am glad to say that the quantity they have so far succeeded in procuring is well in excess of that quantity. I admit, Sir, that in spite of the local procurement scheme and the arrangements they had made for feeding the deficit areas and in spite of their having been relieved from the strain of having to feed Calcutta, acute local scarcities were experienced in the earlier stages in some of the deficit districts like Chittagong, Tipperah and Dacca, and that was reflected in a level of rice prices in those areas considerably above not only their own statutory maxima but also over the rate prevailing in the rest of Bengal. For example, at one time the price of rice in Chittagong ranged from Rs 30 to Rs 35 while in Dacca at one time it was quoted in the region of Rs 20. The main causes for these local shortages were the slowness of procurement operations in the earlier part of the season and, even more, difficulties of transporting rice from the surplus districts to the deficit districts. But the House must not forget that slow procurement was part of a deliberate policy in the beginning as we did not want to disturb the restoration of confidence by hasty and ill-planned purchases in the rural markets. We knew that if the crop was a bumper one, as we thought it was, procurement was bound to become easier in the latter part of the year, and the results have justified our

*Not printed in these Debates, but a copy has been placed in the Library of the House.—

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expectations. The food situation, as far as rice is concerned, is now easy over practically all the areas of Bengal and the sub-divisional average of rice prices in Bengal today is in the neighbourhood of Rs 13 a maund as against the level of Rs 15 it had reached in the first half of March, 1944. The average of rice prices in the nine deficit districts is now Rs 13/12, prices in Chittagong ranging from Rs 13 to Rs 14. If Honourable Members want, I am prepared to lay on the table a statement showing the latest rice prices in the different districts of Bengal as reported to us by the Government of that province.

Mr K. O. Neogy (Dacca Division Non-Muhammadan Rural) We shall be grateful if the Honourable Member will do that.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I will do that.

The stock position has also improved. The stocks of foodgrains in Calcutta total 87,000 tons,—that was on the 21st October last,—in the deficit districts 182,000 tons and in the surplus districts 100,000 tons, and it is expected that at the end of the calendar year the Bengal Government will be left with substantial reserves. As you know, Sir, the *aman* crop will come to be harvested in the next two months, and from the reports received so far the condition of the crop seems to be normal, though not up to the bumper level it had reached last year. On the whole, therefore, I think I would be justified in claiming that so far as Bengal is concerned the policy which we and the Provincial Government adopted has been justified and that we have sound cause to look to the future with confidence.

Now, Sir, there are two other major deficit areas to which I should like to draw attention. The first is Travancore and Cochin. Honourable Members are aware how these two States used on the average to import nearly 446,000 tons of rice in the pre-war period, most of which came from Burma. The cutting-off of this fruitful source of supply has placed these States in the most difficult position by depriving them of more than 50 per cent of their annual requirements. The Food Department allotted to these areas a total quantity of 288,000 tons of foodgrains under the *kharif* plan of 1943-44 and 82,000 tons of foodgrains under the *rabi* plan of 1944-45, making a total of 815,000 tons of foodgrains. Of this quantity 239,000 tons were rice, 83,000 tons were millets and 82,000 tons were wheat. The States in their turn undertook the most comprehensive measures both for mobilising their domestic resources and for providing for an equitable distribution of the total supplies they obtained both from within and without. Honourable Members are aware that in both these States there is monopoly procurement and State-wide rationing. I have myself but recently visited these two States and I must place on record my admiration of the efficient manner in which the Governments of these two States have tackled their food problem and have prevented the occurrence of starvation deaths in spite of shortage in their domestic output. The ration in these two States today is 13 ounces per day in Travancore and 12 ounces per day in Cochin. Of this ration, however, only 8 ounces of rice are available per day in Travancore and up till recently only 5½ ounces of rice per day were the ration given in the Cochin State. The rest of the ration was made up with other grains like wheat and millets. On my recent visit to Cochin I asked the Cochin State to raise their rice ration to the neighbouring level of 8 ounces. They promised to place the necessary supplies at their disposal. The Cochin Durbar have accordingly raised their rice ration from 5½ ounces to 6½ ounces per day, and will, I hope presently be able to raise it to 8 ounces a day. I must confess quite frankly that I am not satisfied even with a ration of 8 ounces of rice. I know that Travancore and Cochin are predominantly rice-eating areas and it is not easy to change age-long habits within the course of a few months. I would very much like to see the rice ration in these areas raised to at least 12 ounces, but my difficulty is of getting the rice. It is possible to import wheat and I am now able to do so in increasing quantities but rice is just not available. I have therefore to continue to ask the people of Travancore and Cochin to supplement their rice ration with wheat, which grain I am glad to say, is gradually becoming popular in those areas, thanks to the

active and vigorous propaganda undertaken by their Administrations to popularise its use. I may add that I shall constantly bear in mind the desirability of helping the Governments of Travancore and Cochin to raise the rice constituent of their ration to a higher level. My ability to assist them will of course depend on the supplies placed at my disposal by other producing areas. In this connection, I should like to make a public appeal to the Governments and to the peoples of those areas in which rice is in the nature of a luxury ration than an essential article of diet that they should limit to the maximum extent possible their own consumption of rice and thus release the stocks to serve the needs of the predominantly rice eating people of the south.

Now, Sir, I come to Bombay. Bombay used to import on an average 532,000 tons of foodgrains in the pre-war period, of which 143,000 tons consisted of wheat, 50,000 tons of millets and 294,000 tons of rice. We were able to allot them 227,000 tons of foodgrains under the Kharif Plan of 1943-44 and 257,000 tons under the Rabi Plan of 1944-45, of which 129,000 tons was in rice, 98,000 tons in millets and 210,000 tons in wheat. Of this quantity, 349,000 tons have already been moved to Bombay, of which 114,000 tons is in rice, 78,000 tons in millets and 157,000 tons in wheat.

Mr. Mann Subedar (Indian Merchants' Chamber and Bureau Indian Commerce) Where is barley? We were getting barley, not wheat.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: That was imported barley.

Mr. Mann Subedar: How much was imported?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I have not got the figures here. I am dealing with the Basic Plan of India.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee (Calcutta Suburbs Non-Muhammadian Urban) There it is omitted!

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava. It will be noticed that in the case of Bombay as well, we were not able to meet their requirements of rice in full, and we have tried to make up the balance to some extent by giving them other foodgrains. Bombay also is a deficit area which has tried its best to help itself, both in the matter of procurement and equitable distribution of total available supplies. Honourable Members may be aware that Bombay has put through a scheme of a graded compulsory levy of foodgrains and has also instituted a system of monopoly purchase for the balance of the cultivator's marketable surplus. Indeed, they have gone further and enacted legislation for the compulsory maintenance of their existing area under food crops, and for the compulsory diversion to food crops of a part of the area under non-food crops. They have not only extended the scheme of rationing to practically their entire urban area but have also undertaken a system of provisioning for all the inadequate producers and non-producers in their rural areas as well. The population involved in this provisioning scheme is estimated at 4 millions. The ration allowed at present is 28 lbs per month per adult. With the stocks in their actual possession at present together with the quantities expected to be procured by them from the last year's crop and the balance awaiting despatch from the rest of India, the Bombay Government expect to be in a position to meet their requirements till the end of December and still hold one month's reserve. I am confident that with these stocks, the allotment that we hope to make to them for the next year and the quantities they will themselves procure from their own domestic production, the Bombay Government will be able to handle their food problem successfully during the coming year as well.

Sir, I now turn to another area which perhaps is prominently present in the minds of some Honourable Members. I refer to the province of Madras. Madras has been more or less self-sufficient in the matter of food supplies and we had been informed by the Madras Government that they were confident about their ability to meet their own requirements. As Honourable Members may be aware, rationing in urban areas has been most extended in the province of Madras. The Madras Government have also had a very efficient system of procurement of food supplies from their surplus districts which they utilise

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for feeding their rationed area as well as supplying the balance of the requirements of their deficit districts. Some time during the year, however, our attention was drawn to the presence of acute distress in Malabar. My Director-General of Food paid an immediate visit to the South and held discussions with the Government of Madras and obtained our assurance that they would keep the district of Malabar sufficiently supplied with foodgrains. We also recommended to them the advisability of introducing district wide rationing in the district of Malabar, and I am glad to say that the Government of Madras have now introduced district wide rationing in the major part of the Malabar district. This is the first experiment of its kind in British India and I am most anxious that it should succeed. I have recently been to Malabar and saw for myself the conditions in that district and I have no doubt that the introduction of district wide rationing was the correct course to adopt. As a result of my observations, and in order to assist the Government of Madras, the Government of India have recently made a special allotment to the Madras Government of 22,000 tons of rice and 8,000 tons of wheat for the purpose of easing the food situation in Malabar and facilitating the successful introduction of district-wide rationing in that area. If this experiment succeeds in Malabar it may well prove a pointer to other deficit areas in British India particularly in regard to their deficit pockets. I am not happy about the size of the ration contemplated for Malabar. The ration proposed is 12 oz and of it only 10 oz is to be available in the form of rice. I wish it were possible for the Government of India to make available to the Madras Government additional supplies of rice which would help them to raise this ration. But as I have already stated, rice is in very short supply and I cannot import it. We hope however to make available sufficient supplies of wheat to the Madras Government by which they may be able to raise the rations in all cereals in Malabar to a total of a pound a day. The other district of the Madras Presidency about which we have recently been hearing reports of some distress is Vizagapatam. While I was last in Madras I particularly drew the attention of the Madras Government to the reported situation in Vizagapatam district and I was assured that the Madras Government was in close touch with the situation there and were taking appropriate steps to meet it. The Government of India have recently made a special allotment of 5,000 tons of rice to the Madras Government for the use of the Vizagapatam district and I think this will go some way to meet the shortage which particularly prevails in these pre-harvest months. I shall watch with interest whether the Madras Government will also apply the principle of district-wide rationing in Vizagapatam.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) Does the Honourable Member like to stop now?

Before adjourning the House I wish to mention that I understand that there has been an agreement among the Parties that the time limit to be fixed for speeches during the debate on the food situation should be 20 minutes for Members generally and 30 minutes for the leaders of Parties.

Does that meet with the consent of the House?

Sir Henry Richardson (Nominated Non-Official) If the leader does not speak I presume that 30 minutes will be allowed to the principal speaker of the Group?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) No, the agreement relates only to leaders. If the Parties agree to allow 30 minutes to another speaker in place of the leader, there would be no difficulty, but in the absence of such agreement, the arrangement comes to must stand.

Mr. Hoosenbhoy A. Laljee (Bombay Central Division Muhammadan Rural) We do not know how many days are allotted. Neither are we informed by the Government as to what is the programme to be adopted in this food discussion. The Members here are not informed at all whether the debate is for one, two or three days. Therefore we cannot say whether 30 minutes are sufficient for leaders.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I have agreed to give two more dates—8th and 9th November

The Assembly then adjourned for Lunch till Half Past Two of the Clock

The Assembly reassembled after Lunch at Half Past Two of the Clock, Mr Deputy President (Mr Akhil Chandra Datta) in the Chair

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava. Before lunch I was dealing with the main deficit areas of India. I have dealt with Bengal, Bombay, Madras, Travancore and Cochin. I think these are the important deficit areas with which we are concerned.

I would now like to pass on to a review of certain general matters relating to food control and food policy during the last twelve months. This is the period during which the co-ordinated policy which emerged from the Gregory Committee's recommendations has been working. During this period statutory price control was instituted for wheat, gram, barley, bajra, jowar and maize. The basis for the statutory maxima price for wheat was taken at Rs 9-8-0 per maund in the main producing markets of the Punjab and those for bajra and jowar at Rs 7/8 and Rs 7/- per maund respectively. In order to protect the producer if prices fall, Government gave an undertaking to purchase any quantity of wheat offered at Rs 7/8, a similar guarantee was given in respect of Bajra and Jowar at the rates of Rs 6 and Rs 5/8 per maund respectively. As regards rice, an all-India statutory price was not fixed, partly owing to the absence of a homogenous market and partly because of the difficult periods through which Governments in the rice producing Eastern Region were passing during the beginning of the current year. But the Provincial Governments concerned have themselves imposed statutory maxima of rice prices and the House will be glad to know that in the Eastern Region the statutory maxima itself have been steadily brought down during the course of the year under review. The position at present is for Bengal the statutory maxima producer's price is Rs 12/12 per maund in surplus districts, and Rs 14/- per maund in deficit districts, for Bihar Rs 11/- per maund, for Orissa Rs 9/- per maund, for Assam Rs 14/8/- per maund and for Sind Rs 8/8/- per maund. Rice prices in Madras have been generally kept below Rs 10/- per maund, while for U P and Punjab the Government of India fixed the statutory maxima at Rs 13/8 per maund. The House will see, therefore, that the last 12 months have witnessed considerable development in the realm of statutory fixation of foodgrain prices and it is happy to record that, by and large, market prices have kept well within the statutory maxima. There have been some local exceptions to this general statement, such as, for example, Chittagong and Dacca. But the situation in those places has also now been brought under control and I would be correct in saying that foodgrain prices today are within the maxima limits set by Government. I may also inform the House that the Food Department is most acutely conscious of the need for having the prices of foodgrains at levels which will be within the reach of the vast majority of our poorer consumers, but the House must not forget that the interests of the producers have also got to be taken into account and we cannot take any action unduly to bring down producer's prices, especially when we are so actively seeking his co-operation in the "Grow More Food" campaign. A just and reasonable compromise has, therefore, to be arrived at between the interests of the producers as well as of the consumers in fixing the prices of foodgrains, but I can assure the House that the most careful attention will be paid to the point of view of the consumer in the fixation of the prices with which he is most concerned, *viz.*, retail prices.

Another important development has been in the field of rationing. The principle of rationing which was not so popular when it was first introduced has now proved its worth by experience and even the surplus administrations have now fallen into line and Government's declared policy of bringing all the major urban areas under rationing is now more or less completely enforced.

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Today the number of towns rationed is 460 and the population affected is 42 millions. In addition, rationing has been introduced in rural areas in places like Travancore, Cochin, Bombay Province and now Malabar. This extension of rationing has brought to the front important problems of administration which may necessitate an expansion of the rationing branch in order to make more readily available to the provincial and State administrations the pooled experience of the Government of India in this matter and also in order to secure within reasonable limits uniformity of standards. In this respect, it is the set policy of the Government of India to try its best to see that the statutory ration all over the country does not fall below one lb a day but the successful execution of this policy depends upon two factors, viz., the willingness of the surplus administrations to fall into line and the willingness of deficit administrations to accustom their people, if necessary, to the use of foodgrains other than those to which they had been normally accustomed. I can see visible signs of progress in both these directions. As regards the former, the ration allowed in the newly rationed cities in the Punjab has been fixed at a pound, while with regard to the latter Travancore and Cochin have led the way and, after long and sustained effort, accustomed their people to the partial use of wheat. Now, the Madras Government have mainly at my instance agreed to try the experiment of introducing a small quota of wheat in the cereal ration in the urban areas. I know it is not an easy thing to turn over from one grain to another, nor am I suggesting that there should be a complete replacement of one grain by another. But the fact remains that we are in short supply regarding rice and recent events tend to make me feel optimistic that it would be possible to make up the deficit to some extent by wheat. If that is so, the realities of the situation demand that the rice-eating peoples of the country should, to some extent, be induced to supplement their rice rations with wheat, so that their overall ration in cereals may not fall below the limits set by nutritional standards. Moreover I am informed that the introduction of an element of wheat in the rice eaters' diet would be a definite factor in the way of securing better balance in his diet. I would like therefore to take this opportunity of urging the administrations of the rice-eating areas in India to make every effort to popularise the use of wheat and to see that it is introduced to some extent in the diet of the people, rather than allow them to stick only to rice and suffer a ration which is considerably less than the minimum of one pound.

Now, there is another matter on which I know grave concern is being felt and rightly felt by Members of this House, and that is the deterioration and wastage taking place in food grains during storage. I would quite frankly admit that losses have taken place of food grains during storage, but I would like the House not to forget that this country has always had a large incidence of loss of food grains through deterioration and wastage during storage. In fact the loss suffered on this account in the pre-war period has been estimated at as high a figure as one million tons. But the incidence of this loss used to be spread over a large number of small stocks and was therefore not so prominent before the public as it has now come to be when bulk storage of large quantities has had to be undertaken in connection with the operation of the basic plans. Moreover facilities did not previously exist in the country for the storing of grain in such large quantities and at such places as has had to be done during the last two years, and it was unavoidable that a certain amount of loss should have occurred during this storage. I would like to assure the House that I am not trying to defend or gloss over the losses which have taken place. On the contrary we have been seriously perturbed over their occurrence and the whole problem of prevention of losses during storage has been engaging the most serious attention of my department in the last few months. We have been able to secure on a temporary basis the services of a specialist with experience of storage conditions in the middle east, and this officer has personally toured round the main surplus and deficit areas and given advice to Provincial and State Governments in the matter of scientific storage.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: Is he a foreigner?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: Yes. A number of advisory notes on the general fundamental principles relating to storage have been issued by the department, and training courses have been arranged in Delhi, to be held during the first fortnight of this month—they are going on now, I believe—which will be attended by selected officers from provinces and states all over India. The House will be glad to know that this storage training course is definitely practical in bias and technical procedures have been avoided as far as possible. The present temporary Director of Storage has also put up a scheme for the establishment of a permanent directorate of storage which will operate largely in an advisory and technical capacity and help the Provincial and State Administrations to minimise, if not altogether eliminate, the losses that were hitherto arising out of insufficient attention having been paid to proper storage conditions.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: The permanent Director also will be a foreign expert?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: No, I have not said that. I have said that proposals are before me for the establishment of a permanent directorate of storage.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: But there will be a Director?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: Yes, I suppose so. In addition the Government of India have drawn up an extensive programme for the construction of new storage godowns or the improvement of existing godowns, both to contain grain imported from overseas, and grain procured in the surplus areas and awaiting transport to deficit areas. A senior officer of this department has been placed on special duty to expedite this programme which is expected to be completed within four or five months.

There is another matter relating to the working of the Food Department to which I would like specially to allude. The department exercises constant vigilance over what is going on in the provinces and the States. Our regional Food Commissioners are in constant touch with the Governments of their regions in matters relating to food. They bring to our notice cases of reported shortage within their regions and they draw our attention to difficulties in movement and they also constitute the channel through which the difficulties of the Provincial Governments are brought to the notice of the Central Government and the guidance of the Central Government is transmitted to the Provincial Governments. I may inform the House that during the preceding twelve months several cases of local food shortages or action requiring emergency allotments were brought to the notice of the Central Government and every time the centre took prompt action and made emergency allotments which saved the situation and prevented the emergence of acute distress. Thus, for example, the food grains lost as a result of the Bombay explosion were immediately replaced by a special allotment and an extra allotment of 80,000 tons of wheat was made to the Bombay Government following their urgent representations in the month of August.

Another instance was the acute food shortage in the Deccan States reported at the end of April. Emergency quotas to the extent of 17,500 tons were immediately arranged and a very high priority was ordered for the movement of food grains to these areas. More than 30,000 tons of food grains were moved to the Deccan States during three months and by the end of August the food situation in the Deccan States had been brought under control. The position at present is that substantial reserves have been built up by these areas and they can face the next years without diffidence.

To give another example. Towards the end of July 1944, the U P Government reported the emergence of difficult conditions regarding wheat supplies and asked for an immediate allotment of 50,000 tons of wheat. Immediate action was taken by the Food Department on this request and by now a total of 50,000 tons of wheat and 18,500 tons of wheat products and 5,000 tons of rice have been allotted to the U P which action has materially helped the Government of that province in handling their food situation. (*An Honourable Member* "From what province was this sent to U P?") I cannot tell you

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but it is from our surplus stocks. Another instance which I may quote would be the North-West Frontier Province where in the middle of April 1944 a shortage of wheat supply was reported and assistance was asked for. An immediate special allotment of 8,000 tons of wheat was made and recently with a view to assisting that province with their rationing schemes the Food Department have given them a special allotment of 22,360 tons of wheat and wheat products.

As regards Madras, I have already told you that as a result of representations made by the Government of Madras and my recent visit to the South a special allotment of 22,000 tons of rice and 8,000 tons of wheat was made for Malabar and 5,000 tons of rice for Vizagapatam. Following my recent visit to Mysore and my discussions with the Mysore Government, we have recently given them an extra allotment of 7,000 tons of rice.

By the citing of these details, it is not my object to express a feeling of self-satisfaction. All that I want to do is to draw the attention of the House to the fact that my Department tries to keep itself in touch with the changing needs of the food situation in the different parts of the country and within the means at its command take the necessary action to prevent the emergence of scarcity conditions in any part of the country.

Finally, I come to the topic which I have no doubt looms large in the minds of many Members and that is the question of imports. The Foodgrains Policy Committee recommended that one million tons of wheat should be imported every year till the restoration of normal conditions and that an extra import of 500,000 tons should be arranged for building up a central reserve. I have repeatedly stated in public and the House is aware that the Government of India have been making the most insistent and urgent representations to His Majesty's Government regarding the urgent need for the implementation of this recommendation. The matter has been not only one of constant concern to me personally but I must acknowledge the steadfast encouragement and support which I have received from His Excellency the Viceroy and my Colleagues of the Executive Council. His Majesty's Government, however, have had their own very real and serious difficulties and we were not, for a very considerable time, able to secure assurances that satisfied us. Negotiations on such a subject conducted by means of telegraphic correspondence have their limitations and it was for that reason that I welcomed very heartily the suggestion that Sir Henry French should pay a visit to India to see for himself the realities of the situation and report on them to His Majesty's Government. I have no doubt that his recent visit has helped to impress upon His Majesty's Government the imperative necessity of enabling an import of a million tons by this country and our thanks are due to him for the frank assessment of the Indian food situation which he must have presented to His Majesty's Government. The present position is that from October 1943 to the end of September 1944, an import of 800,000 tons of grain was promised by His Majesty's Government. Of this quantity, 650 thousand tons have already been received and 95 thousand tons have been shipped. They are on the seas. An additional import of 300 thousand tons has been promised in the three months ending December this year and His Majesty's Government have promised further to review the position in November. These supplies of imports have been of the utmost value to the Government of India not only in meeting the food shortage in the country but also in facilitating the measures of price control. I would like to assure the House that the position at present is that we are able to meet the wheat demands of the different Provincial and State Administrations to the full. The excess of the supplies we are getting over the amount required for this purpose is being utilised by us partly for supplementing the rice deficiency of the deficit regions in the South and in the Bombay province and partly for making up the deficiency caused by the shortage of millets in some parts of the country. We also intend to hold part of the imports of wheat expected to arrive in the next few months as a working reserve. I have no doubt that with the easing of the war situation in the West more shipping would become available and it may be possible perhaps

to obtain as much wheat as we require during the coming calendar year. In any case, the Government of India are acutely conscious of the need for securing an adequate quantity of wheat imports for successfully handling the food problem of the country and I can assure the House that we shall spare no effort to urge upon His Majesty's Government the need for taking appropriate measures for giving us the imports that we require.

So far I have been talking on the food position in the last twelve months. Honourable Members may like to have some idea of the prospects of the next year. No indication can be available at the moment of the prospects of the Rabi harvest of 1945, but we have some information about the Kharif prospects of this year. I believe I would be right in saying that while we cannot expect a bumper harvest of either rice or millets in any part of the country taking the country as a whole, the Kharif crops would be about the average, perhaps a little less in some areas and a little more in other areas. Even this statement can only be made with great caution as much will depend upon the weather conditions in the next two months. But enough is known to make us emphasise the need for care and caution in the administration of the food policy in the coming twelve months. The silver lining in the situation is the more optimistic position regarding the imports and if that position is maintained I think we should be able to go through next year without having to face any calamity of a major magnitude. But much will turn upon the efficient and successful conducting of procurement operations both in the deficit and in the surplus regions, the continued and, if possible, increased willingness of the surplus administrations to share in the All-India food burden, the further extension of rationing, the availability of imports, the maintenance of price control, the easing of transport conditions, the vigilance of the Department and, above all, the understanding and co-operation of leaders of the non-official opinion. I trust that all this will be forthcoming and will enable the Government of India successfully to handle the food situation during the next year.

Before I conclude, Sir, I would like, if I may, to touch upon some problems relating to the future. For some time to come even after the termination of the war, I do not think it would be possible for the country to have restored its normal pre-war sources of rice supply. There is also the fact to be faced that in a sense the food problem has always been with us inasmuch as the country has not had sufficient food to enable everyone of its citizens to get the minimum quantity considered necessary on the nutritional grounds. It has also been a fact that a large majority of the population of this country has not been getting a balanced diet. In particular, the supply of the protective foods has always fallen very short of the basic requirements and even such supplies as were available have not been equitably distributed. In fact, the vulnerable classes like children, nursing and pregnant mothers and especially those belonging to the lower income groups have had all too poor a share of the basic and protective foods. In the meanwhile, the population of this country has been increasing and is continuing to increase. The House needs no indication from me that the food requirements of the people from the long-range attitude must be studied and definite plans regarding production, procurement, price control and distribution of both the cereal food grains and the protective foods should be drawn up so that in the post-war India at least the people of this country can look forward to having more food, better food, balanced food. All this requires careful study and involves the collaboration not only of Provincial and State Governments but also of the Departments of Food, Agriculture and Planning. The first step in this direction has been the formation of a Food Committee of the Viceroy's Council, the principal object of which is the co-ordination policy on a high level on all matters relating to food, to whichever Departments they may pertain. I am proposing to set up very shortly in my Department a Food Planning Section, the main purpose of which will be, in the first instance, to study the whole question of a long-range food policy and planned development of the food economy in India. I know that nothing spectacular can be achieved in this matter within a short

[**Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava**]

period but I am sure the House will welcome the attempt which we are now planning at assessing the long-range food requirements of India and devising ways and means not only of setting targets for the requisite supplies but also of taking the necessary steps for their equitable distribution. I intend, therefore, to place on special duty one of the senior officers of the Department to study this question and submit a preliminary report on the subject of food planning in the post-war period.

Sir, this is just a bare recital of the main achievements of the Department of Food during my stewardship of it of a little over a year, and I leave it to the House to judge how far we have advanced since the appalling days of 1943.

I may summarise what I consider we have been able to achieve during the past year. Broadly speaking, I claim that we have been able to do four things. Firstly, we have secured the recognition and adoption of an All-India policy steadily pursued with a common direction and a common aim. In spite of all constitutional and other difficulties, to overcome which a good deal of tact and patience was required, we have been able to secure the acceptance of the broad fact that those who have must share their surplus with those who have not. Secondly, we have controlled prices. Thirdly, we have been able to prevent the occurrence of serious local shortages and improve the stocks of grain in the hands of Governments and Administrations all over India. Fourthly,—and I attach the greatest importance to this,—we have been able to restore confidence in the ability of Government to control the situation. Confidence is best reflected in prices. The steady downward trend of prices of the principal food grains is to my mind proof positive of the returning confidence. In saying this I may be accused of complacency or a desire to advertise myself. I wish to assure the House that I am neither complacent nor do I desire self-advertisement. Whatever we at the Centre have been able to do has been achieved through the hard work, self-sacrifice and steady determination of the people of the country and the administrations of the provinces and States co-operating in the general plan. I am indebted to all and particularly to the Members of this House for much help, guidance and encouragement which I have always received and without which, I am free to confess, it would not have been possible for me to cope with the situation as I found it last year. While food has clearly demonstrated the need for central direction it has, if anything, more clearly demonstrated the economic unity of the country, the interdependence of the provinces and States and the need and capacity for common effort in a common cause. Nothing can be achieved if food is regarded as something which really does not matter, as something which can be made the sport of private or political profit or privilege. We can only succeed if the nation as a whole is determined as if it believes in the possibility of success. As already stated by me, our work is really laying the foundation stone of a new India in which the first requisite of existence is not lacking, namely, adequate and balanced food for all. I appeal to the Members of this House to give a great lead in a great cause.

Mr. N. M. Joshi (Nominated Non-Official) May I ask the Honourable Member whether he will circulate copies of his speech by tomorrow evening? He has made a very important speech with facts and unless we have his speech we cannot deal with it in our speeches.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I will try.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta) Motion moved.

"That the food situation in India be taken into consideration."

Notices of amendments have been given by some Honourable Members. Of course, these amendments did not comply, and could not possibly comply, with the condition of two days' notice. Therefore in the peculiar circumstances of the case I propose to admit them all.

In the next place I think it will be convenient to the House to have all the amendments moved without any speeches in the first instance, and then there will be a general debate on the main motion and the amendments together.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad (United Provinces Southern Divisions Muhammadan Rural) Sir, I move

"That the following be added at the end of the motion

'As no effective measures for growing more rice were adopted after losing the import of rice by 24 million tons from Burma, this Assembly recommends that the Government of India should start immediate campaigns of growing more rice in U P and Punjab—particularly in Assam which can grow the quality of rice which Bengal consumes and which has about 44 million acres of cultivable land which is not under cultivation and establish poultry, cattle and vegetable farms for the use of the American soldiers and for which implements and live stock may be imported from America under lend lease arrangement

The Assembly is further of opinion that the control price of food grains without controlling the stock will lead to blackmarkets and will completely fail, and it recommends to the Governor General-in-Council that steps should be taken to control the entire production of food grains in India. No one—whether producer, distributor or consumer—should be allowed to keep it at his house any stock of food grain without permit from competent authority and the Government should be empowered to purchase the stock in excess of the requirements of the producers at control price

The Government of India should collect statistics of the production of each food grain in every province and Indian States and formulate a scheme of distribution from surplus areas to deficit provinces, the transport of food grains from one province to another province should be under the control of the Government of India while the transport from one district to another district in the same province should be under the control of Provincial Government. The prices should not be allowed to vary abnormally from district to district or from province to province which is the root cause of blackmarket, the maximum and minimum prices for the whole of India should be fixed by the Government of India with which the provinces may regulate their prices, the distribution should be controlled by the Government agencies consisting of permanent staff but in every province and in each area a Committee of non-officials should be associated to help in distribution, the grain shops should be opened in each mohalla and distribution work should be done by shopkeepers in each mohalla and it should not be the monopoly of one individual or one community, the District Magistrate should consult the Advisory Committee in the selection of the personnel. The rationing should be confined only in towns with a population of 150,000 or more

The Assembly also deplores the excess of food stuff of perishable nature in certain localities which are either burnt or dumped spoil food stuff to other places which is very unhygienic, it also deplores the careless manner in which the stock is stored in certain places

The Assembly further recommends that in every Committee appointed by the Central or the Provincial Governments two members of the Legislature concerned should be associated

The transport of food grains should have the same priority as the transport of war materials and they should be carried at concession rates on the certificate of the Government. The punishment to be accorded to those who neglect those orders and to Station Masters who do not take prompt action in the supply of wagons should be heavy and in each case the confiscation of the entire stock should be the minimum punishment "

Sir, I move

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta) Amendment moved

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[Mr Deputy President]

and in each area a Committee of non-officials should be associated to help in distribution, the grain shops should be opened in each muhalla and distribution work should be done by shopkeepers in each muhalla and it should not be the monopoly of one individual or one community, the District Magistrate should consult the Advisory Committee in the selection of the personnel. The rationing should be confined only in towns with a population of 150,000 or more.

The Assembly also deplores the excess of food stuff of perishable nature in certain localities which are either burnt or dumped spoilt food stuff to other places which is very unhygienic, it also deplores the careless manner in which the stock is stored in certain places.

The Assembly further recommends that in every Committee appointed by the Central or the Provincial Governments two members of the Legislature concerned should be associated.

The transport of food grains should have the same priority as the transport of war materials and they should be carried at concession rates on the certificate of the Government. The punishment to be accorded to those who neglect these orders and to Station Masters who do not take prompt action in the supply of wagons should be heavy and in each case the confiscation of the entire stock should be the minimum punishment."

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait (West Coast and Nilgiris Muhammadan): Sir, I move

"That the following be added at the end of the motion

'and having considered the same, this House is of opinion that the co-ordination of procurement and distribution between surplus and deficit areas is entirely wanting, that the transport in that behalf is not adequate and timely (even considering the priority for war purposes) and that the prices are beyond the means of the mass of the poor in this country, and that the steps taken by Government for exercising vigilance over eradication of corruption among those engaged by Government in the matter of the execution of food work are poor and ineffective."

Mr. Deputy President (Mr Akhil Chandra Datta) Amendment moved

"That the following be added at the end of the motion

'and having considered the same, this House is of opinion that the co-ordination of procurement and distribution between surplus and deficit areas is entirely wanting, that the transport in that behalf is not adequate and timely (even considering the priority for war purposes) and that the prices are beyond the means of the mass of the poor in this country, and that the steps taken by Government for exercising vigilance over eradication of corruption among those engaged by Government in the matter of the execution of food work are poor and ineffective."

Prof N. G. Ranga (Guntur cum Nellore Non-Muhammadan Rural) Sir, I move

"That the following be added at the end of the motion

'and having considered the same, this House is of opinion that grain prices in most places are uneconomically low for producers and that the failure of Government to subsidize the food consumption of the poorest consumers both in towns and villages is hitting hard both the producers and consumers of food."

Mr. Deputy President (Mr Akhil Chandra Datta) Amendment moved

"That the following be added at the end of the motion

'and having considered the same, this House is of opinion that grain prices in most places are uneconomically low for producers and that the failure of Government to subsidize the food consumption of the poorest consumers both in towns and villages is hitting hard both the producers and consumers of food."

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: Have copies of this amendment been circulated?

Mr. Deputy President (Mr Akhil Chandra Datta) They will be circulated in due course

Prof N. G. Ranga: Sir, the Honourable Member in charge of this Food Department has been at considerable pains to congratulate himself and the Government upon the failure with which the Government policy has met in this country in regard to food supply. Sir, he has not given us any reason why Government has so far failed to assure itself of adequate additional production of food in this country. He has not told us what steps Government have taken and with what results and with what success to increase the total production of food from time to time. The Government have not given us the total amount of additional land that has been brought under cultivation, they were unable to give us any definite information—not merely any estimates about the actual additional production that they have been able to achieve in this country ever since this food scarcity has been recognised to be a factor. Sir, the Honourable Member was very eloquent about his plans for the future, about

his glorious ideas in regard to the basic rations that people should have in this country. He is also very sympathetic in saying that he should give better food, adequate food for the people in future. But he has not told us what exactly they are doing today. It would be the duty of this Government to assure the masses in this country of a basic ration of at least one lb a day. He does not recognise the fact that today more and more people in larger and larger parts of the country are living on a low ration of food. There are places in India today where the local officials are condemning the people to ten tolas of rice per day per adult, whereas in Madras jails the basic ration that is laid down for a 'C' class convict is 50 tolas per day. For the ordinary people, it was 20 tolas per day but now it is reduced to ten tolas per day. Then again, the Honourable Member has been telling us that in so many towns with about 40 million people, the Government of India have been shouldering the responsibility of feeding the people. What about lakhs and lakhs of villages in this country which are to be found not only in surplus areas but also in deficit areas. Have Government ever considered the question of providing these people with adequate rations? They have done nothing at all. What do they propose to do? He has not given us any information whatsoever. All over the country, there is a clamour for lowering the price of food grains. How I wish some pressure was brought to bear upon the Government to keep down the price of industrial goods as also the cost of these foodgrains. He should see that these prices do not rise abnormally high. The Honourable Member says there should be no profiteering. But who is profiteering, may I ask? Are the peasants profiteering? Or, are the Local Governments,—in collusion with, to what extent I cannot say, the Government of India—and also in collusion with the various middlemen who are very well organised and are profiteering in different parts of the country? Only this morning information was given to me by a reliable friend of mine that in Orissa the Local Government was adding Rs 2-8-0 to every bag of rice. This is in addition to the ordinary expenses which the Local Government is expected to allow for. Profiteering on a large scale is going on on the part of merchants, and yet no information is given to us. Either now or in the past has any effort been made to reduce the various allowances that have been so lavishly granted to all these people? Many orthodox economists have been telling us that many middlemen carry away all the profits under the present system of Government control. What steps have been taken in regard to them?

Now, Sir, coming to the actual price which the peasants are able to realise for their own benefit, what do we find? In almost all parts of the country, the peasants are not able to make both ends meet. Many of my friends may wonder whether after all my statement is correct. Let them take the trouble of going to the villages to make a detailed enquiry. They are all in the habit of going in railways from one end of the country to another. Let them visit some of the villages in their tours. Hundreds of villages have become depopulated because of uneconomic prices for the grains. They cannot carry on cultivation. Why is it that in villages one does not find any new additional houses built, whereas in towns, hundreds and even thousands of houses are coming up like mushrooms, including so many storied buildings? Is that not a sure indication that villages instead of progressing are going to decay and ruin and they are stagnating, whereas towns are growing fat, and waxing rich at the cost of villages? All this, because it has become very profitable for the various businessmen and middlemen and others who have become a sort of hangers on to this war-minded Government, it has become very easy for them to engage themselves in trade, dealing in foodgrains and thus make profit at the cost of the poor consumers and the poor producers in the villages.

Sir, we have brought to the notice of the Madras Government certain facts which could show that present prices at which rice is being supplied to the local consumers in Madras Presidency, a price of Rs 12 per bag of paddy can easily be paid to the grower. Instead, the Madras Government insists

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upon paying only Rs 10-8-0 as a sort of a standard rate. And who gets the benefit of this Rs 1-8-0? It is these rice millers. The same thing happened to wheat. The millers get the benefit—they are only a few thousands of people. But they are rich and powerful, and this is an alien Government. My friend may happen to be an Indian but he has not got that spirit. He is an agent of this alien Government, which cannot inspire the people in regard to food production and food distribution. Therefore it is obliged to depend upon all these middlemen to get for it the requisite quantities of food at prices which will be low.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani (Tirhut Division Muhammadan) On a point of order. To whom is this eloquent speech being made? The Honourable Member in charge of the Food Department is not here.

An Honourable Member: To empty benches.

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmad (Leader of the House) The Honourable Member has just gone out. He will be coming within a minute or two.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr Akhil Chandra Datta) He made a long speech and has gone outside to make himself comfortable.

An Honourable Member: Give him less food.

Prof N. G. Ranga: In regard to wheat too, not so long ago the Ministers concerned of the Punjab as well as Sind complained very bitterly that not adequate prices are being allowed to the wheat growers of the Punjab and Sind. It may be that those people who live in towns want these things to be cheap. Yes, they would all like to have it, if possible, for nothing. But you cannot produce these grains for nothing. You have got to pay a decent price. Only this morning the Honourable the Railway Member was telling us that four to five times dearness allowance was granted to the various employees in the Railways. What dearness allowance has been allowed to the poor peasant in the Punjab, Sind, or Frontier or anywhere else? You have been trying to suppress these people. The Honourable Member has been repeating again and again that they have been trying their best to bring down the prices of food-grains. What does this mean? It can only mean one thing: the suppression of the peasant and nothing else. On the other hand everybody else is profiting thereby. I want the consumers to be able to get grains at reasonable prices, but if under the present emergent circumstances that prevail in this country you are not able to supply these people at such prices as will be within their reach, then it is the duty of the Government not to suppress the peasant by keeping down the prices of the agricultural produce, but, on the other hand, to subsidise the consumption of the food needed by the poorest sections of the people. Has the Government been able to do anything at all in this respect? When there was so much trouble in the country and millions of people were dying in Bengal, they came forward with their generous offer of feeding Calcutta city. Some cheap kitchens were opened here and there and people were fed also. But where? In towns only. It is the mischievous intention of this Government to satisfy the press, to silence these rich people, to silence these powerful men of the towns, and their organised workers also. They have introduced rationing in the towns and have done nothing at all for the villages. In order to satisfy all these people they have kept down all these prices. What can the poor peasants do? They are not organised, they are not able to make themselves effective. A few thousands of them who were bold enough to protest against this sort of policy of the Government have been kept under lock and key for all these days. If I had not been released 21 days ago, this House would not have heard a word in favour of the peasant. And what is happening in the country? You back up the millers and allow them to become rich at the cost of others and then you say 'we have been able to keep down the prices of foodstuffs'. The sooner we reverse this policy the better it is. But how can this be done. The gentleman who is responsible for this did not care to remain here in his seat and follow the debate; cannot be expected to reverse the policy of the Government. And what is his status in this country except that he represents

to be an appointed Member of His Excellency the Governor-General who is himself an alien in this country. It is only a national government which can certainly reverse this policy in a bold manner and give satisfaction to all sections of the people.

Then, Sir, I come to the question of feeding the rural masses. You want to feed the town-folk. What happens to all these rural people themselves? The Honourable Member has told us himself that in Malabar it has become necessary to introduce district-wide rationing covering all villages and towns. What is to happen to all other villages? Are Honourable Members to be told for the first time that there are thousands of villages in this country—lakhs of villages—where there are non-agricultural people? They need food too. The Honourable Member's point seems to be that villages are producing surplus food and it is from those villages that surplus has got to be taken in order to feed the people in towns, and it is possible for non-agricultural people in the villages to meet their requirements from there. Unfortunately, this does not happen. According to the latest programme and policy of the Madras Government, their Grain Requisition Officers go to villages. And what do they do? Whether you are able to produce so much grain on your land or not, they simply demand such and such prescribed quantities of grain from your land which is supposed to have been placed under foodgrains. They are not concerned with the actual position—whether you have produced it or not. They must get their quota. Therefore these people are obliged to give away all the grain in their possession. If they refuse to do so they are liable to be put into jail and, in addition, there is any amount of trouble in store for them from the local Chowkidar, Lambudur and the police. In this way grain is being taken away from the villages—please remember—in order to feed your towns. Moreover villages are becoming famished, under-nourished and are suffering from serious food shortage. The Honourable Member was telling us, 'we are now in possession of such a machinery which has got zonal officers who will be able to tell us what is happening in any part of the country and we can take care to see that no serious local food scarcity occurs'. What is happening in Orissa and Vizagapatam and in Madras Presidency? There is serious food scarcity—local food scarcity. Is there any information available here in regard to that? How soon the Honourable Member is able to get that information and who gives him the information? Even the press is being gagged. They are not allowed to publish any news with regard to food scarcity. In Patna, a paper was suppressed for publishing 'inaccurate information, exaggerated accounts and so on'. The press is being gagged and your publicmen in towns are being gagged for pleading the cause of poor peasants. Villages are allowed to go to rack and ruin.

The Honourable Member has not mentioned anything about Orissa or about Bihar. What is happening in Bihar? Is there no scarcity of food there? Is it not a fact that all that widespread disease and epidemic which are raging the countryside, and for which even the new Governor—Sir Rutherford,—was so very eloquent, were due to malnutrition? You take notice only when people begin to die. They must die conveniently in towns, also in sufficiently large numbers, so that the correspondents of papers would not be able to escape from the awful spectacle of the people dying and dead. Then alone will the Government of India open its eyes. Its officers will begin to open their eyes. Until then they are not going to open their eyes. Where is the machinery to prevent the occurrence of these things? Isn't it a fact that thousands of people in Malabar had to die of cholera brought about by malnutrition even before now? The Madras Government did open their eyes then. In Bihar and Orissa it is the same sad story. People are dying in Vizag District as a result of 'strange diseases brought about by malnutrition.

What do I want? I want the Government to think seriously about the rationing, supply and distribution of food in the rural areas. I want them to keep down these middlemen. When they are prepared to control millions of peasants before they reap their crop and harvest it why do they not control the few landlords of five millions and other millionaires? That is what I want.

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it very convenient to catch hold of these people and allow them to exploit the masses—both producers and consumers? Then I want them to adopt that scheme of Mahatma Gandhi for developing local self-sufficiency in as many places as possible. This is not Mahatma Gandhi's idea alone. There is Radha Kamal Mukherjee who is accepted by many and the Government of India as a sound economist. He also supports this idea. Then only will it be possible for the villagers to assure themselves of sufficient food before their surplus food is taken to the towns to feed us and keep us in good temper and temperament. I want prices to be fixed as much as possible at the same level of prices and salaries as enjoyed by our industrialists and professional classes respectively. You give every assurance to industrialists and commercial magnates and professional classes of rising items of profit to keep in level with the index number of prices. What do you do with regard to peasants? The Honourable Member says we must have some compromise between the claims of the producers and consumers. He says he has brought in a British expert. Let him also accept the British practice. In Britain the price of agricultural produce is fixed again and again in consultation with the representatives of the British Farmers' Association and it is only as a result of their discussions that prices are being fixed. And at the same time the prices that are being paid to British agriculturists are shown to be much above the capacity of the consumers to pay and therefore the Government has come forward to subsidise the consumption of food for the poor people. Here, in order to satisfy your consumers, you are keeping down the prices. You come here and pat yourself on your broad chest and say, 'Oh, I have done so much good. Therefore congratulate me and indirectly congratulate the alien Government.'

Mr. Deputy President (Mr Akhil Chandra Datta) You have two minutes more

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Let him see that the prices are adequate, and that the rural masses are provided with the necessary quantity of food before their harvests are taken away to the towns. We have also to see that profiteering is eliminated. Profiteering is being carried on by Government officers themselves. Your railway station masters and Grain Purchasing Officers are making a roaring business. If one officer can go on leave and gives a chance to some other officer he is likely to be remunerated by thousands, and it is at the cost of the peasant. So far as the consumer is concerned, the price is fixed, but so far as the peasant is concerned it is not fixed. You have fixed the ceiling price but not the minimum price. Have you given any assurance of any decent minimum price for the peasants in the provinces? You have done nothing at all.

Under these circumstances you come forward and say that this Honourable Food Member and this Government of India do really deserve well of the masses of this country. But have they done anything, even in their limited power, to help the peasants as well as the poor consumers? The poor consumers do not exist only in towns. When the Bengal Famine was going on, all those industrial workers engaged in the essential services were paid and fed. They did not die. I am glad I do not want anybody to die in this country from starvation. At the same time see that those Harijan workers in villages who are mostly agricultural workers also are not starved. Those Harijans in the country-side are workers. They want food. Is the Honourable the Harijan Member there? No.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr Akhil Chandra Datta) Your time is up

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Think of those Harijan members

Mr. Deputy President (Mr Akhil Chandra Datta) Your time is up

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Their needs have to be considered. Therefore this Government has failed miserably. Besides it could not have succeeded because it is an alien Government. It is not a National Government. It is not able to win the confidence of the people. It is only able to thrive on the profits of the middlemen. The sooner this Government gets out of this country and the sooner they get rid of these middlemen the better will it be for the masses of this country, the consumers and the producers.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh (Nagpur Division Non-Muhammadian) I support the amendment moved by my friend Professor Ranga. The Member for Food relied principally on these things—first of all, price control, then procurement of food, equitable distribution of food, levy of gram, compulsory diversion of land to the foodgrain, rationing allotment of food to different provinces from surplus provinces, the co-operation of leaders. On nutritional grounds, he would like to have better quality of food and he would like large range policy to be followed. Of these, the things which hit the villager most and on which the Food Member would rely for the success of his Food policy is price control and he would also like to rely on the procurement of food. If the prices were going high there were two things which were necessary to be done. One was to grow more food in the country or import more food. The other was to subsidise the agriculturist so that by growing more food the cost of production of food would be met partly by the Government and food would be available to others at a lower price. To that effect I had moved a Resolution in the last Session and I had the support of the whole House so far as giving of a subsidy for the purpose of production of food was concerned.

Now what happens is this. The Government finds that the prices of food are going up and the persons whose wages are fixed, principally Government servants, are the persons who shout most saying that agricultural prices are soaring up abnormally and they should be brought down and life made more comfortable for them. There was a period, from 1930 to 1941, when the prices of agricultural produce were very low. At that time none of these persons, who were enjoying fixed incomes, raised their voice to relieve the poor agriculturists of their distress. That was the time when those who shout now should have come forward to help the distressed agriculturists. At that time the cost of living had gone down. They saved money and all that money went to the bank and they do not want to part with any part of it. Now that opportunity has come to the agriculturists to make money we hear from all parts of the country shouts that the agriculturists should not be allowed to charge such high prices. Professor Ranga has suggested a remedy. If the Government is so anxious that the people should get their food at reasonable prices, the Government should come forward with some remedy to help the agriculturists, so that they may pay off the accumulated debts of the last so many years, just as they have granted a dearness allowance to the Government servants.

Now, how is the procurement operation carried on? The procurement of food is carried on first by fixing the prices and the prices are fixed arbitrarily, not on what should be the economic price but what the Government considers is a reasonable price which can be paid by the men who are living in towns. I would like to know the basis on which the prices for the agricultural produce are fixed, particularly in regard to food crops. No basis will be or can be given by the Government, because the representatives of the agriculturists are not taken into confidence by them. As a matter of fact in other countries (I referred to other countries last time while talking about this subsidy in my resolution)—I mean the United States and Britain—there are agricultural unions who have got their representatives in the Parliament or the Senate. Those persons compel the Government to fix a price and the Government dare not go against their decision. If you want the agriculturists to grow more food, then you should see to it that they get better prices. There can be no better inducement for the agriculturists than the assurance that they will get better and more economic prices, not only adequate to meet the cost of production but also something over and above it so that they may be able to pay off their accumulated debts of past years. In other countries there is a guarantee given to the agriculturists regarding the prices below which they shall not go down. But what happens in this country is that a price is fixed, then it is revised and again revised. What confidence can the agriculturists have, if he were to grow more food, that he will get an economic price, which will enable him to meet his needs, not only the ordinary needs of feeding himself and family but medical relief, clothing and the education of his children.

[Mr Govind V Deshmukh]

But the Government not only does him an injustice in fixing a very low and uneconomic price but they compel him to part with his produce at that price. If the Government had fixed prices arbitrarily and had not resorted to compulsion it would not have mattered much. The agriculturists would not have complained, because they would have after all got the price they wanted. The Government could have gone on fixing prices but if the agriculturists had not parted with their crops the Government would have been in a helpless position. Now, what they do is to fix the price arbitrarily and then at that price procure the crops. That is where the farmer or the producer is hit. Not only that but the Government requisitions the crop by law. What is more, there is a target fixed, a target of procurement, that so much shall be collected. This according to them is based on statistics. What happens is that revenue officers in the districts so work it out that the target goes up by double and treble, and the crop is collected at the cost of the poor agriculturists. And this happens not only in the deficit provinces but also in the surplus provinces. For instance, what happened in Orissa is this. The Government compulsorily procured all that the agriculturists grew and then having collected all that, when the agriculturists themselves wanted food for themselves and their families they had to purchase it from the Government at a higher price. This is the irony of the situation. Then, in my own province,—(C P and Berar)—which is supposed to be a surplus province, millets, which is the ordinary food of the agriculturists, had been procured by Government to such an extent that the poor people had to live on groundnut cakes and a little gur. If this is the way in which things are managed by Government, no wonder that there will be very little inducement for the agriculturists to grow more food.

I should like to say a few words about this long range policy. This policy has been mentioned by Government but when is it to begin? Should it not begin now? Because it is a long range policy should it begin after a few years? Does it mean that it should begin after some years instead of now? When there is a shortage of food now, you must start growing more food now. What has the Government done? However, as Prof Ranga said, who cares for this Government. There is plenty of cultivable land in this country on which more food could be grown. There is no urgent need to reclaim waste lands for the purpose. There is already considerable land available and with better methods of cultivation more food could have been grown. This Government ordered one hundred tractors so that they may quicken this business of growing more food. How many were allowed? One. This is how in every matter the representations of the Government count with other members of the United Nations. The Government has gone down in the estimation not only of this country but of outside countries also. If the Government are not doing anything to put this long range policy of producing more food into immediate practice it will stand condemned by itself. Merely appointing directors and directorates and this committee and that committee is not by itself going to help the Government in the solution of the food problem. The Government must realise in all seriousness that it is high time that they should start doing something now.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr Akhil Chandra Datta) Order, order. The House will now take up the adjournment motion.

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT

DEATHS DUE TO AN ACCIDENT AT BAKHTIARPUR JUNCTION STATION

Mr. Muhammad Nauman (Patna and Chota Nagpur cum Orissa Muhammad) Sir, I move that the Assembly do now adjourn to discuss a matter of moment public importance, viz., criminal negligence of the E I Railway administration in not having provided lights at Bakhtiarpur Junction Station and allowing empty special train to run without search light on the engine on the 26th of September, 1944, which resulted in the death of nine persons who were run over by the said special train when these persons were attempting to catch the 14 Up Express at about 8-30 P M and further failure of the E I

Railway administration in not having instituted a public enquiry into the said accident

A report was published in the *Searchlight*, a daily newspaper of Patna, on the 26th and 27th, which I want to read in short. The first report which came to us was as following

"An important railway accident involving loss of lives of nine, seven females and two males, is reported to have occurred last night at Bakhtiarpur, E I Railway. It is stated that the deceased along with another were returning from Biharsharif after attending the 'Chiragi' mela there and in their hurry to catch the 14 Down train that had just arrived at the station they were crossing the railway line between the Up and Down platforms, when suddenly an empty coaching special train was sighted passing through the Up line with the result that they were caught under the wheels and killed instantaneously, save and except one who sustained serious injuries. The injured was removed to Patna General Hospital in a precarious condition. The party consisting of members of two Muslim families hailed from Monghyr. Enquiries are proceeding."

The following note was then published in the paper on the subsequent date

"A report published in these columns the other day and so far uncontradicted—gave some details of a tragedy in which 9 or 10 persons lost their lives at Bakhtiarpur railway station. It is alleged that seven women and two men while returning from 'Chiragi' mela at Biharsharif were crossing the railway line to catch a waiting train when an empty coaching special train suddenly came and ran over them. Again the pertinent question that arises is if there was negligence somewhere which was responsible for or which contributed to this tragedy. Is there no rule that an empty coaching special train should slow down her speed at a railway station? If this tragedy occurred after sunset, was there sufficient light at the railway station, and did the authorities give sufficient warning of the coming train to the passengers? If there was any negligence on the part of the railway authorities or the man in charge of the running train, it was simply criminal. Government should at once institute an enquiry and let the public know what they are doing in the matter. The Railway Administration have so far said nothing about this tragedy. It seems that accidents and incidents have now become so common that the Railway Administration are becoming callous, and they will may become so until the public have control over them through a popular Government."

Soon after this, I began to receive letters and representations from people of that locality. I do not intend to read at length all the correspondence I have received in this connection, but I will read just one from Mr Syed Badrul Huda, an honorary magistrate who stays in Bakhtiarpur and is an honorary magistrate of Patna. This is what he says. (This letter has also been sent by many others)

"The whole point is that there were no lights on the platforms with the result that perhaps in the night, the poor victims could not make out the overbridge of the station and were crossing the line in a hurry to catch the down train when the suddenly met the Up coaching special train which was also without searchlight and could not be detected and were run over. It may be argued by the railways that there was no train in the Up direction and they were not bound to light the Up platform, but the point is that passengers coming from the Bakhtiarpur Light Railway have to come to the Up platform for going to the Down platform, and in view of the rush it was a necessity that the Up platform should have been lighted. My information is that the Down platform was not also properly lit and there was only perhaps one light burning in front of the A S M's office."

Another point which he has said is that there was no searchlight on the empty wagon engine which ran on Up line and besides its speed could not be ascertained whether it was running at full speed or at controlled speed. It is also alleged that there was no information available to the Bakhtiarpur junction station. I personally went to the Bakhtiarpur station and made all the necessary enquiries on spot as to what had happened. I got evidences from about 12 to 16 persons—Hindus and Muslims—a few of whom were present at the time of the accident, and all of them told me that there was no light of any kind on the platform, either on the Up or the Down platform except the one near the A S M's office. They further told me that not only has this been the position at that station on that particular night, but this has been the story for many months past, that practically all the night those platforms were to remain in dark. There was no light of any kind on the platforms and there was no searchlight fixed on the engine which could not only have given guidance to the driver of the engine but would also have given warning to these passengers who were the victims of this accident. The worst is, as Mr Badrul Huda says, that no information was available even to the Bakhtiarpur station

[Mr Muhammad Nauman]

master that any Up special empty wagon train was to pass by at that time. One other man told me that until the matter was fully enquired into he was not in a position to tell me whether there was or was not any truth in the report that signals were not on on the Up line. At least, this information was not given to the people who had assembled on the platforms who were detraining from the Bakhtarpur Light Railway and going to catch the 14 Down Express, and the result was what happened. These passengers were in a hurry to catch the train which they thought was more convenient and it was easy for them to cross the line and catch that train, although they hardly realized that they were crossing the last hurdles of their lives and that the train they were going to catch was taking them to the next world. The railway administration had arranged for all the darkness for necessary ceremony of the tragedy. I do not want to introduce any heat or sentiment. But I would only impress on the House that they should think dispassionately what this means and how callous the administration has been. Probably they think that they have no obligation because they have been carrying on a campaign of 'No travel'. But do they not realise that so long as the so-called public utility service of the railways continues, they cannot shirk their obligation or responsibility in this direction. They have got to give a certain amount of safety and a reasonable amount of safety for individuals who undertake these journeys. This is the point which I want to impress on the House now. After the accident, a public demand was made for a public inquiry into the accident to find out exactly why and how these platforms were kept dark all these days.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall (Member for Railways and War Transport) To whom was it made?

Mr. Muhammad Nauman. Letters were sent to the General Manager by a few persons and no heed was paid. No reply was given to any one of them. Of course, the Honourable Member in the morning said that there was some sort of official inquiry made. I do not know what sort of inquiry was made. At least, I have no knowledge of that and the Honourable Member for Railways would probably be in a position to tell the House what reports he has received from the official bureaucratic source, which he is relying upon.

The other point is, when trains were coming in both directions and if the intimation was already with Bakhtarpur Junction some sort of verbal notification could have been given to all passengers on the other platform to say that such and such a train was due to arrive in darkness. The people could not even see whether the signal post was down or not.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr Akhil Chandra Datta) You have two minutes more.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: This accident was the result of gross negligence on the part of the E I R administration. The worst of it is their callousness in not having carried out a public inquiry and they have not even sympathised with the families of the victims that they are sorry for what had happened. With these words I move my motion.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr Akhil Chandra Datta) Motion moved.
"That the Assembly do now adjourn."

Mr. Frank E. Anthony (Nominated Non-Official) I had not originally intended to intervene in this debate but I have some specialised knowledge in regard to railways and railway working and I feel that the few remarks that I may have to make will be of some help. I would make the plea that in a case of this description the House should not allow itself to be overborne by emotion. I am sure we are all very sorry indeed that certain persons were killed but it is a very understandable weakness, when persons are killed, to begin to argue from effect to cause and to endorse the plea that blood calls out for blood. Because some people have been killed some say that it follows inevitably that somebody must have been criminally responsible for their death.

I have intervened in the debate as a friend of the railwaymen. I am speaking merely as a matter of principle. I do not know who the persons were, what

railwaymen were involved and to what community or communities they belong but I would ask the House not to endorse or arrive at any decision to require the punishment of innocent and already overburdened railwaymen.

My friend there has made the charge that this engine was not carrying, as he called it, a search light. I want to tell the House what the position legally is with regard to this subject. I appeared in the Bombay Mail accident case recently and perhaps I know the rules even more than my Honourable friend the War Transport Member. It is an admitted fact that there is an acute shortage of bulbs of all description and this acute shortage has affected the Railway Department perhaps more than any other department. And because of this acute shortage of bulbs, railway officials have allowed engines, both mail and passenger, to operate without bulbs. This railway usage is not illegal and it has been allowed. It was admitted by the railway authorities in the Bombay mail accident case that they had no bulbs. They were obliged to allow engines to operate without the usual headlights of 2,500 candle power and to use in their place cab lights of 10 candle power because they had no other alternative. The point I wish to emphasize is this, that legally, these engines—mail and passenger engines—are not obliged to carry these searchlights, as my friend called them. The G. I. P. Railway is governed by certain rules, as is the case in all other State Railways. There is a rule, I think it is rule 143, I am quoting from memory, which allows the engine to be taken out at night, mark you, with buffer lights. Now, the buffer light throws no beam of light. It is a pin point of light. That rule has been framed and it is in existence. The legal implication of this rule is that mail and passenger engines can operate normally, even in peace time, without searchlights or headlights. They are allowed to operate with these buffer lights. In the light of their experience and knowledge, the Railway Administration do not consider it necessary to have these bulbs and if railwaymen are merely carrying out what is allowed to them under the rules, I feel that we cannot ask for their punishment.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman. I have not asked for their punishment. I have asked for the condemnation of that rule which has been made.

Mr. Frank R. Anthony. This rule has not been newly framed. It is a rule which has been in existence for years and years. (Interruption.) It is obvious that the Railways do not consider it necessary that these engines should operate with headlight bulbs. I endorse the view that it may be desirable but the desirability is never an effective or a real touch-stone.

Sardar Sant Singh (West Punjab Sikh). In a court of law!

Mr. Frank R. Anthony. Not even outside a court of law. My Honourable friend may have read the case of an American who was alleged to have been murdered in New Delhi park. It may be said that if there were more searchlights in the park, the murder would not have been committed. You may say that it is desirable to have searchlights in the New Delhi parks but you cannot seek to impeach the New Delhi Municipality because they did not have the desirable number of searchlights.

My only plea is this that the railwaymen were operating under an acute shortage of bulbs. If they were travelling without the bulbs, it has not only the sanction of railway usage but more than that it has the sanction of the law. Let us not therefore in a state of emotion lend ourselves to the process of witch-doctoring in attempting to smell out some innocent scapegoats.

[At this stage, Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdul Rahim) resumed the Chair.]

Mr. N. M. Joshi (Nominated Non-Official). Sir, I rise to support the motion of my Honourable friend Mr. Muhammad Nauman asking for a public inquiry of the accident that has taken place in Bihar. I know that on account of the war situation, on account of the lack of lighting and on account of the fact that the railways have to carry inflammable and explosive material accidents are taking place oftener than they used to. I, therefore, feel that the Government of India should consider the question of the accidents more carefully and seriously. I do not support the motion for a public inquiry in order to get the railwaymen punished, but it is the duty of the Government of India to see that human

[Mr N M Joshi] life is saved. I, would, therefore, like the Government of India under the present more difficult situation to be more watchful and to take steps to see that accidents are avoided. Accidents are more likely to take place under the present circumstances but certainly more steps are necessary to be taken in order to avoid them and in order that human life should be saved. I also feel that in all these cases a thorough inquiry should be made by the Government of India and the inquiry should be a public inquiry. Under the present circumstances it seems to me that the Government of India sometimes avoid publicity. I do not know why they should do so. It is true that under the present control over the press they can easily get some very important events suppressed.

Recently there was an accident in Bhusawal, an important railway station not very far from Bombay. As the facts are known to me, I may mention that the accident took place on account of the fact that railway wagon had contained petroleum or some other explosive material. The wagon first took fire and then exploded. While the wagon was burning, some railway officer ordered the men to throw water on the fire in order to extinguish it with the result that there was an explosion. I admit it was a much smaller edition of what we may call the Bombay explosion. The wagon was brought by the officer nearer some office where there were men working with the result that, according to my intimation, not less than 8 or 9 persons were killed and many more were injured. The point is this that the Government of India have to be more careful. That is the first point. Then, they must issue orders to their employees whenever they carry an explosive material to see that greater care is taken. The example of the Bombay explosion should have been an eye opener to the Government of India and should have made them take more serious steps to avoid such accidents.

Then, so far as my knowledge goes, there was no publicity given to this explosion. I do not know how Government managed to get this explosion not mentioned in the press, because not less than 8 or 9 persons were killed and many more were injured.

Lastly, Government in all these cases must make a public inquiry not with a view to punish the man who was responsible—ho may be punished if found guilty—but with a view to avoid such accidents. The root cause of the accident must be gone into so that there will be a warning to all those who have to handle these difficult situations to take steps to avoid them. I, therefore, hope that the Government of India will accept this demand for a public inquiry. Let there be a public inquiry and let facts be known so that the public will know what the Government of India is doing. Sir, I have done.

Mr. Muhammad Ashar Ali (Lucknow and Fyzabad Divisions, Muhammadin Rural). Sir, I am much obliged to you for having given me an opportunity today at least to say something on this adjournment motion. I have been noticing since yesterday that palliation is the rule in this Session. For every action of the Government there are some kinds of palliations. They may be circumstantial palliations or other kinds of palliations, but there is a palliation everywhere. Then there are explanations and explanations but no condemnation. And why? Simply because some of us think that we will be raised in our titles, in our positions and in some other things if we side with the Government. What happened yesterday is happening again today in this House. I do not blame my friends but the atmosphere is charged with the idea of palliations and palliations and nothing else.

Sir, nine or ten lives have been lost and it is not an ordinary matter. It is a matter for every one of us in this House to be sorry about. It is a matter over which every one in this House should feel sorry. It is not to condemn the Government that an inquiry is asked for. It is for the Honourable the War Transport Member to say. Cannot he rise and say that he will make an inquiry in the matter and if there are some persons to be punished, he will punish them? If there are no guilty persons, he will not punish anybody but at least he will issue a warning to the effect that such and such arrangement should be made. Now, nothing is being done, there is only palliation and nothing else. My Honourable friend Mr. Anthony said that he did not care whether it is a

Muslim or a Hindu Nobody says that because some Muslims have been killed, therefore my friend should have sympathy with us or if the Hindus were killed, he should not have sympathy with us It is not that It is a matter for which every human being should feel some sorrow in his heart We have become very callous in this House I am sorry to say that although 9 or 10 lives, especially women, have been lost in this accident, yet my Honourable friend over there says that nothing should be done in the matter We should simply sit here in this House We should come here and go away after realising our honorarium Is this the work that we have to do in this House? The Government ought to thank Mr Muhammad Nauroo as they ought to have thanked Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan yesterday that they have brought to their notice that such serious things are happening in the Punjab and in Bihar But this callous Government does not care for such happenings I say it on the floor of this House that if a European's life were lost, my friend Mr Anthony and my friend Sir Edward Benthall would have expressed their regret But in the present case there is no regret but palliation and explanation Is this the way to deal with humanity?

While travelling from my constituency to Delhi, I myself noticed that small stations have no lights And why? Here in Delhi there are lights everywhere but in small stations there are no lights The explanation is that there is no kerosene oil And why not? If in your own houses you can get even half a bottle of kerosene oil why should you not provide a few lamps in these stations? Government in this matter have been guilty of the greatest and grossest misconduct It is a fact that has been established by my Honourable friend who has given so many paper quotations, and still my Honourable friend Mr Anthony says it is not an offence In my view it is a serious offence not to provide lamps at these stations Nine lives have been lost, it may be nothing to Government but Honourable Members should think twice before they vote on this motion

Sir, the Honourable Mover has not asked that any one should be punished So why import the question of punishment at all? It is only in order to divert the question from the main issue These attempts at side-tracking the real issue should not be made Sir, I support the motion

Mr. Kallash Bihari Lall (Bhagalpur, Purnea and the Sonthal Parganas Non-Muhammadan) Sir, I join my other friends in ventilating the grievances against the railway administration in my province which has lately become a victim of these accidents Perhaps my Honourable friend Maulvi Abdul Ghani has given notice of an adjournment motion in regard to the sinking of the "Cormorant" This thing has come in the wake of that and God knows how many accidents are still in store for Bihar which seems to be a victim of Nature's cruelty But it is not in the spirit of a post-mortem examination or crying over spilt milk that I am speaking I submit that the railway administration in this country is as important as the Government of India itself In revenue they are equal to the Government of India and therefore in the interest of the people there is no excuse for their not providing some amenities so as to save the people from risking their lives in the way they have done It may be said it was only an accident But why should it happen? It is known to every one that railway trains are now-a-days overcrowded and this overcrowding is due to shortage of trains Every one would like to catch the earliest train and the administration should have seen the risks which the people were running by this shortage of trains

I will state my own experience While travelling from Gaya to Bhagalpur there was no light in the train I had to change the train at Kiul, and while doing so I gave my trunk to the coolie who pointed out to me that the lock was broken Evidently a thief had tried in the darkness to break the outer lock as well as the lock of the trunk But somehow he failed in the crowd and nothing was stolen But even murders may be committed, and criminals are emboldened to commit these offences on account of the darkness that prevails in the whole train That is the fate of every train that is not on the main line, and even the Loop Express runs without lights except a few lights in the first and

[Mr Kailash Behari Lall]

second class compartments, the third and inter classes are all without lights. The argument advanced is that bulbs are not available these days. But we find, things are obtained at higher prices and if the railway authorities follow the principle of not running trains without lights I believe they can get sufficient bulbs for the trains. Therefore the railways themselves contribute to these accidents, and it is in this spirit of warning the railway authorities that I speak today. Of course the lives lost cannot be brought back, but we can learn by experience at least and take precaution for the future. It will not do to say that there is no money and there are no materials. The income of the railways, as all people know, has gone up many times and they cannot simply make money and make civilians suffer in this way. They should consider that every life has its value. Of course, in these days and in this country human life has gone down in value not only on the railways but also in the general administration. Not only life but our very honour has lost its value. I will take some other opportunity to narrate the change that has come over the administration in this country where the value of our life and our very honour has gone down. It is only to remind this Government about this loss of value that I got up to make a few remarks. When the railways are rolling in wealth by increased income in railway traffic, they should see that human lives are better cared for and given due value.

With regard to the change in the spirit of the administration, I may remind the House about the keenness of the Government to check ticketless travel and punish them. In Bihar they have started the experiment of a court in a running train. A Magistrate holds court in a running train and ticketless travellers are punished on the spot. There cannot be two opinions about the evils of ticketless travel. The railways are to be vigilant in checking this evil and tracing the culprits and punishing them. At the same time they should be vigilant to see that the innocent people are not harassed or punished. Those who are in charge of attending to the amenities of passengers on railway platforms always attempt to squeeze money. They would encourage a man holding a third class ticket to get into the Inter class and then pounce upon him and collect extra fares. What can the poor illiterate passenger do when he finds that there is no room in the third class carriages? He runs about, up and down the platform, only to find that all carriages are crowded and, in his anxiety to get into the train, he gets into an Inter class compartment. I myself have drawn attention of the Inspector on the platform to find accommodation for these poor people who are running up and down the platform. The railway official simply brushed me aside by saying, it was none of my business. But he thinks it is his business to see the poor passenger enter a third class compartment and then demand full fare or at least patch up the whole affair by a compromise. That is the practice obtaining in this country at present. I may point out that I have nothing but praise for the administration so far as their vigilance to put down ticketless travel is concerned. But at the same time, they should look to the comforts and convenience of the passengers. It is in that spirit that I make these remarks and perhaps if nature conspires to inflict some wound on the afflicted people, they will at least have the satisfaction that human agency is not against them. With these words, I support the motion of my Honourable friend.

Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C. Chatterjee (Nominated Non-Official) Sir, I have considerable sympathy with the Honourable Mover of this Motion. My reasons are that in the first place, human life must be treated with the greatest sanctity. It does not matter who the people killed were, whether they were Muslims, whether they were Hindus or whether they were Christians, whether they were poor or rich, human life is sacred and must be held sacred. So, Sir, my Honourable friend has my sincere sympathy in his effort to bring before this House and also to invite the attention of those who are responsible for the administration of the railways to this most unfortunate and most regrettable accident. I also feel, Sir, that he has done a service by bringing to the notice of those who have to deal with these matters certain great inconveniences which the travelling public has to undergo in these days. In recent years, it has been

my lot to travel more than half the month, and I spent about ten nights on the train on an average in a month and therefore I have very great sympathy so far as this question of lights is concerned. The inconvenience that is caused by the absence of lights to the travelling public is indeed very great. In a four berth compartment, you have one light and none in the bath room. This state of affairs is known to every one and every one feels it. It is much more serious if the absence of lights or a shortage of bulbs results in such a serious accident or at any rate becomes a contributory cause where human life is endangered and lost. But there are certain matters which we cannot help. We have been told that there is acute shortage of bulbs, that bulbs simply cannot be had. We have got to take that into consideration. I would also say that it may not be such an insuperable difficulty to procure bulbs as has been said by some speakers. Perhaps you yourself, Sir, might feel so touched by this accident that you may even be willing to lend to the railway administration a number of superfluous lights which I see all round me here and perhaps that will also save us the inconvenience of sitting late at night. That is of course by the way. The fact still remains that we are living in abnormal times. There is a war on. It is not only in India that one suffers from lack of lights or that one hears of unfortunate and regrettable accidents. It was not very long ago that I happened to be in England and there was hardly a light visible anywhere. The lighting restrictions may have been relaxed recently but ever since the war began, there has not been a single road light in England and as far as the railway stations are concerned, even the names of railway stations could not be read. There was no light and the same kind of accidents happened there as they happen here.

Now, Sir, accidents are bound to happen in the best regulated country in the world and the Indian railways do not claim to be the best regulated railways in the world. They may be moderately regulated, or indifferently regulated, but I do realise this, that they along with all other railways are at this time passing through a period of the utmost difficulty in keeping up the train services and in providing whatever facilities they are able to provide. As I was saying, I have been out of this country during the war and I must say that it is to their credit that they do not in any sense show up in a worse light than railways in other countries where there are probably more facilities for production of bulbs than in this country do. I would therefore say that we should make some concessions and not take the administration to task too severely for something which they cannot help.

Another point emerges. I observed that the Honourable Mover of this Motion said that these poor unfortunate people did not see the overbridge because it was very dark and therefore they crossed the line. Now, Sir, I feel this, that though I have the greatest regret for the great misfortune and the terrible punishment which they suffered because of this small mistake, the fact remains that in this country, may be in other countries too, people seem to have a terrible temptation not to see and use overbridges whether by day or by night. Somehow or other they do like to go under the bridge and cross the railway line, and no amount of loss, no amount of hearing about people who lost their lives because they tried to save a little physical effort or tried to save a little loss of time by crossing the railway line seems to deter the public from a practice which is so unwise. I still feel though I do not say that this lessens my sympathy for those unfortunate victims of this tragedy or for their relatives, but I still say that it is not due to inadequate lighting that this tragedy happened. Even the absence of light does not completely hide overbridges from human vision and it is very likely that these persons unfortunately crossed the railway line though they had seen the overbridge. I am just trying to show that the accident was not altogether due either to the negligence or the lightheartedness of the employees of the Railway or the Railway Administration. I have already said that my friend has done a public service by bringing this accident to the notice of this House and through it to the notice of the Honourable the Railway Member. But I feel that a case has not been made up to censure either Government or the Railway Administration for an accident of this kind. It is very

[Lt-Col Dr J C Chatterjee]

regrettable but at the same time we must remember that the Railway has a great deal to do and the Railway Administration are now taxed to the utmost capacity. Is it fair or would it be in the public interest that whenever an accident occurs—and accidents in the time of war must frequently occur—that whenever an accident occurs, a public enquiry should be set up or that Government should be censured, or that the Railway Administration should be censured? Does it in any way improve matters? Sir, I have already said that it has been a very good thing to give publicity to this because however hardworked an official might be, human nature being what it is, he is some times negligent, he may some times be not as vigilant as he ought to be. That has already been done by the motion which my Honourable friend has moved and the speeches of those who have recounted their grievances and the shortcomings of the Railway in this matter. So what I would say is this that what could be done has already been done. I do not think that a case has been made out for a full-dress public enquiry. I do not agree that a case has been made for censuring the Railway Administration, and I would therefore plead that my Honourable friend should now withdraw the motion.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall Sir, I feel that I should commence my remarks by saying that I take exception to the remarks of certain of those Members who have, if I may say so, not dealt with the merits of the case, but have spread themselves over a number of extraneous aspects of railway management and have accused the Government of not caring in this matter and of being callous. Sir, I hope to show that the Railway have paid proper care to this accident. They have the necessary information and they did appoint an enquiry, and I have the facts with me here. I think I had better give the facts to the House with one or two comments on them.

The facts were that there was a heavy rush of passengers at Bakhtiarpur from Bakhtiarpur Bhair Light Railway concerning the pilgrims returning from the Chharg Me'la at Bhair Sharif at about 21.00 hours. (That means 9 p.m.) "14 Down" passenger came into Bakhtiarpur and stopped into the down platform and just then an Up M.T. Coaching Special for which though signals had been lowered approached on the up line. A party of about 13 passengers were waiting on the up platform near the mounting of the foot-over-bridge."

I draw attention to that because the Honourable Mover pointed out that the lighting was such that passengers could not see the over-bridge.

Mr Muhammad Nauman The fact was that there was no light of any kind.

Mr President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) Order, order.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall. They found a way to the foot of the overbridge and could have crossed to the correct platform. The report goes on

"These passengers had arrived by the Light Railway Train at about 22.22 hours and one of the party had gone across to the down platform to purchase their tickets from the B.G. Booking Office and had come back and joined the waiting party who apparently intended to board 14-Down Passenger Train from the off side due to heavy rush on the down platform. These passengers jumped from this platform on to the up track without noticing the approach of Up M.T. Coaching Special which ran over them, killing seven on the spot and badly injuring three."

That is confirmed by the Honourable Mover's statement and the report which he read out. It is quite clear from that that they were crossing the line in a manner which they should never have been doing and it was evident from the action of the member of the party who bought the tickets that they were crossing the line in order to board the train from the off side, and that this was not done in a wild moment but was done deliberately. I go on with the report.

"The driver of the up train pulled the emergency signal."

"That is, he put on the emergency brake—"

"but could not avoid the accident."

The driver was alert and attempted to stop the train—

"The train stopped with the last vehicle about 270' beyond the site of the accident."

It shows it could not have been moving very fast—

"From the statement of the driver it is apparent that the engine of the Coaching Special had no electric head lights but had the ordinary oil lamps."

That report gives, I think, a sufficient account of what actually happened, and I think also makes it sufficiently clear that very regrettably the people responsible for this accident were those passengers who apparently decided to jump across the line and did not look at the train which was coming from the opposite direction. Needless to say, no passenger has any business to cross the line, especially when an over bridge has been provided for them.

Three points, besides the direct responsibility for the accident, have been made. One concerns the lights on the station. There were lights on the station. That is my information. I admit on some of these stations, particularly in the A R P area, lighting arrangements are not what they were. This station is, as a matter of fact, just outside the present A R P area, but they have been under A R P rules for a long time. Perhaps the lighting is not so good, as it might be and I will endeavour to see that so far as possible lighting is improved on these stations to the extent that the availability of oil and electric light bulbs permit. But what has not yet been explained is why the absence of lighting can be regarded as a contributory cause. What could be the defect in the lighting if people, as the evidence shows, could find their way to the overbridge and cross with perfect safety. There is no question of providing lighting to cross the rails illegally, so that I do not see how in any way better lighting would have effected the result. In fact, if the lights had been at all dazzling, they would probably have still obscured the lights of the approaching train, but the victims did not show even ordinary care to see the lights of the approaching train. There were lights on the approaching train. They were not headlights. Why, I do not know. But all the trains do not carry headlights now, because there is a shortage of headlight bulbs which has been ventilated in this House on numerous occasions. During the last month or so the position has improved but even now I do not suppose all trains carry headlights. When they do not carry headlights the practice is to carry two oil lights which this train was carrying. Mr. Anthony has explained the technical position. There was nothing wrong. As Lt. Col. Chatterjee points out the lighting difficulties in the United Kingdom are much worse than in this country and engines there do not carry headlights. So, the lighting of the engine may be regarded as having been normal.

Lastly, there is the question of the enquiry. It is suggested that there was no proper enquiry. When an accident like this takes place what happens is that the railway authorities set up an enquiry. They notify the magistrate and the police. They did so on this occasion. They further notify the Government Inspector of Railways under the Posts and Air Department. The enquiry was held. No representative of the District Magistrate attended but two members of the police, Khan Sahib Nabi, Deputy Superintendent of Police and Mr. Muhammad Yakub, Inspector of Police both attended this enquiry which was also attended by the Government Inspector of Railways from Calcutta. This Committee of Enquiry signed a report to say that, having carefully considered all the evidence, they found (a) that the passengers were killed, etc., (b) that the accident was entirely due to the rash and negligent action of the deceased and the injured for crossing the Up line from the Up high level platform in order to board 14 Down passenger standing on the Down platform, (c) that no railway staff were responsible for this accident.

So, in reply to the suggestion that there was no proper enquiry, I say that there was an enquiry held by the Government Inspector of Railways whose duty it is, if he is not satisfied with the findings, to prosecute. He did not think it necessary to do so. The police officers who attended did not consider it necessary to take any further action and it appears from the evidence that I have given and the report which I have read to you that the enquiry was pretty thorough and, I hope, will satisfy members on that score.

I think I have covered all the points. I think the evidence shows that the victims unfortunately perished or were injured because they were where they should not have been and that they did not use the overbridge which at the

[Sir Edward Benthall]

foot of which they were standing. There is nothing to show in any way that the railways or the railway staff were at fault and everything to show that it was the lapse of the unfortunate victims, and I would suggest that in fairness to the country's own servants this House should not show a readiness to condemn their railway servants in the way in which some of the members have done.

The motion speaks of criminal negligence. I suggest there is no such criminal negligence. I would ask the honourable mover to withdraw his motion or, if he will not do that, I hope the House will reject it.

Sir Syed Raza Ali (Cities of the United Provinces Muhammadan Urban): Is there anything to show how many witnesses were examined in this enquiry?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The Honourable member will appreciate that it is not too easy a matter at short notice on an adjournment motion to secure all the evidence I would like to. But the enquiry report does say "having carefully considered all the evidence." I frankly do not know what that means but the Government Inspector of Railways was there. It was not only a purely railway enquiry. It is the job of the Police and the Government Inspector of Railways of the Posts and Air Department to enquire thoroughly into those matters. They were both present at this enquiry and they came to that finding.

Several Honourable Members: The question be now put.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: Sir, I do not want to take more than four minutes in reply. I went to Bakhtiarpur, spent a full day and from the reports available to me there from non official sources there was no-one to say that there was any variety of light on the platform. It was dark and cloudy night over and above this.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Do I understand the Honourable member to say that he did not cross question those who were particularly concerned?

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: I should not say they were not concerned. Those people from whom I enquired were certainly not at all concerned with the victims, but were concerned with facts. I went there after a full week. The other point is that according to the report to which the honourable the Railway Member has referred he said that there was no representative of the Magistrate and for his information I may tell the House that in Bakhtiarpur there is a Magistrate, whose letter I have read and whose evidence to me was that there was no light on the platform and on the authority of whose evidence, given personally to me, and by correspondence, I have made my statements in this House.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: On a point of information I said that the District Magistrate was informed and was invited to attend but did not do so.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: I do not know that it might be a fact. I said that a Magistrate was in Bakhtiarpur and he stayed there all the time and no reference was made by this enquiry to that Magistrate. I have not tried to bring this adjournment motion on any lines of sentiment. I only want to impress upon this House how these tragedies are being given the names of accidents and how is an enquiry averted or shelved and this is what is being done. Well, if there was any anxiety on the part of the passengers on account of rush, as the Honourable Member for Railway has tried to allege, what reason can be given that, for the last 80 years this station has been in existence and there was never any anxiety on part of the passengers to cross in the manner in which they did on the 25th September 1944? So, to say that this happened because of rush is to say something which cannot convey any meaning and probably cannot convince this side of the House. So, I press my motion for division.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Question is, "That the Assembly do not adjourn."

The Assembly divided :

AYES—50

Abdul Ghani, Maulvi Muhammad
 Abdul Qayyum, Mr
 Abdullah, Mr H M
 Azhar Ali, Mr Muhammad
 Banerjee, Dr P N
 Chattopadhyaya, Mr Amarendra Nath
 Chettiar, Mr T S Avinashlingam
 Chetty, Mr Sami Velaschelam
 Choudhury, Mr Muhammad Hussain
 Chunder, Mr N C
 Daga, Seth Sheodasa
 Dain, Mr Ananga Mohan
 Datta, Mr Akhil Chandra
 Desai, Mr Bhulabhai J
 Deshmukh, Dr G V
 Deshmukh, Mr Govind V
 Desai, Mr H A Sathar H
 Farid Ali Piracha Khan Bahadur Shaikh
 Gauri Shankar Singh, Mr
 Gupta, Mr K S
 Hans Raj, Raizada
 Hodge, Sri K B Jinaraja
 Kailash Bihari Lal, Mr
 Kishinmashari, Mr T T
 Lohani Chaudhury, Mr D K

Lakshchand, Mr Rajmal
 Lalchand Navahai, Mr
 Laugust Ali Khan, Nawabzade Muhammad
 Mangal Singh, Sardar
 Manu Subedar, Mr
 Murtuza Sahib Bahadur, Mr Syed
 Naidu, Mr G Rangiah
 Nauman, Mr Muhammad
 Neogy, Mr K C
 Pande, Mr Badri Dutt
 Raghunath Narain Singh, Choudhri
 Ramayan Prasad, Mr
 Ranga, Prof N G
 Raza Ali, Sir Syed
 Reddier, Mr K Sitarama
 Sant Singh, Sardar
 Satyanarayana Moorti, Mr A
 Siddiqui, Ali Khan Nawab
 Sinha, Mr Satya Narayan
 Subbarayan Shrimati K Radha E
 Umar Ali Shih, Mr
 Yamin Khan, Sir Muhammad
 Yusuf Abdool Haseen, Seth
 Zafar Ali Khan, Maulana
 Zia Uddin Ahmad, Dr Sir

NOES—49

Ahmad Nawaz Khan, Major Nawab Sir,
 Ambedkar, The Honourable Dr B R
 Anthony, Mr Frank R
 Azizul Huque, The Honourable Sir M
 Benthall, The Honourable Sir Edward
 Bhagchand Soni, Rai Bahadur Seth
 Caroe, Sir Olaf
 Chandavarkar, Sir Vithal N
 Chapman Mortimer, Mr T
 Chatterjee, Lt Col Dr J C
 Daga, Seth Sunder Lal
 Dalal, Dr Sir Ratanji Dinshaw
 Dalal, The Honourable Sir Ardeshir
 Dalpat Singh Sardar Bahadur Captain
 Ghasuddin, Mr M
 Griffiths, Mr P J
 Gwillt, Mr E L C
 Habibur Rahman Khan Bahadur Sheikh
 Haider Khan Bahadur Shamsuddin
 Imam, Mr Saïvid Heidar
 Inakin, Mr A O
 Ismail Ali Khan Kunwer Hajee
 James, Sir F E
 Jawahar Singh Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sir
 Joshi, Mr D S
 Kamaluddin Ahmad Shams ul Ulema

Khare, The Honourable Dr N B
 Krishnamoorthy, Mr P S A
 Kushal Pal Singh, Raja Bahadur
 Lawson, Mr C P
 Mehta, Mr Jamnadas M
 Miller, Mr C C
 Mudaliar, The Honourable Dewan Bahadur
 Sir A Ramaswami
 Mudie, The Honourable Sir Francis
 Puri, Lal Kureel, Mr
 Raismann, The Honourable Sir Jeremy
 Rao, Dr V K R V
 Richardson, Sir Henry
 Roy, The Honourable Sir Asoka
 Sathya, Mr D P
 Shahban Khan Bahadur, Mian Ghulam Kadir
 Muhammad
 Shoobett, Mr W H
 Spence, Sir George
 Srivastava, The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad
 Stokes, Mr H G
 Sultan Ahmed, The Honourable Sir
 Thakur Singh, Capt
 Trivedi, Mr C M
 Tyson, Mr J D

The motion was adopted

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday, the 3rd November, 1944

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Friday, 3rd November, 1944

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber of the Council House at Eleven of the Clock, Mr President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) in the Chair

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(a) ORAL ANSWERS

RELEASE OF MAHATMA GANDHI

60. *Mr. Lalchand Navarai: (a) Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state if the present release of Mahatma Gandhi is conditional or unconditional?

(b) Have any restrictions been placed on Mahatma Gandhi?

(c) Did the Mahatma or any one else ask Government to release him? If so, who?

(d) Did the Mahatma object to his release unless a National Government was established at the Centre?

(e) What are the grounds for the Government's belief that if the arrests of Mahatma Gandhi and the Congress Leaders had not taken place in August, 1942, the Congress would have negotiated on their own with Japan in the face of Mahatma Gandhi's clear repudiation of such a belief?

(f) Is there any likelihood of the Mahatma's meeting with His Excellency Lord Wavell? If so, when? If not, why not?

(g) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the *Daily Worker*, London, dated the 24th June, 1944 to the effect "Cannot statesmanship be found—Mr Amery or no Amery—to begin a new chapter to replace hostility and bitterness by equality and co-operation"?

(h) What steps do Government propose to take in order to take advantage of such advice and remove the present deadlock? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) and (b) The release was unconditional

(c) and (d) No

(e) Government have never had that belief

(f) That is for His Excellency and Mr Gandhi to decide

(g) Government have seen the cutting

(h) Government are not in the habit of taking advice from the *Daily Worker* In the present case the nature of the advice which they offer is not clear

Mr Lalchand Navarai: With regard to part (c) of the question, may I know if Mahatma Gandhi was willing to come out of jail before the deadlock was removed?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie. I have no information

Mr. Lalchand Navarai. Was any communication made by him to that effect?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie. I have answered that question

Mr Lalchand Navarai: Did the Honourable Member say that no communication was made?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) The Honourable Member has answered the question

Mr. Lalchand Navarai: Sir, the answer was not clear

Mr T. T. Krishnaswami: Will the Honourable Member repeat his answer to part (c) of the question?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: Government have never had that belief

WAR SITUATION

61. *Mr. Lalchand Navarai: Will the War Secretary, be pleased to lay on the table a full and detailed statement as to the progress and success of Allies on all fronts of War and particularly on the Assam-Burma and Indian borders since the last session of the Indian Legislature?

Mr C. M. Trivedi lay a statement on the table

Statement

Introduction—Aided to redoubt effort—Since the last statement in this House on the course of the war, great events have happened. In the West, Germany has suffered mortal blows under which she is now reeling, in the East the Japanese have been soundly thrashed and must have few illusions about the fate in store for them. The more reason for all, and particularly us in India, to redouble our efforts and ensure that this titanic struggle which has cost so much in lives and material shall not be protracted one day longer than is absolutely necessary.

Review of war. The West—To review briefly the progress of war in Europe, the South West Pacific and the South East Asia theatres. In the House is aware, the combined Anglo-American onslaught in the West has not only broken down the so called Atlantic Wall but has driven the Germans out of France and Belgium, deep into Holland until now our Allied Armies are storming the Siegfried Line and carrying the war into the heart of Germany under the Supreme Commander General Eisenhower, the combined might of Britain and the United States of America, aided by French Forces of the Interior and from North Africa and contingents of Canadian, Polish and other troops have conclusively exposed the myth of Nazi invincibility.

Italy—No early collapse of the Nazi war machine can be anticipated. The likelihood is that we shall have to fight our way forward through the German countryside. In Mr Churchill's eloquent phrase, the red hot rake of war will be drawn across the face of Germany just as it has been drawn across that of Italy. It is more than a year since the Allies landed in Italy, a year of hard and dogged fighting. General Alexander's forces are now on the threshold of the Plain of Piedmont with its important industrial areas. In this offensive, the great reputation which Indian soldiers have earned during the past five years. This campaign has contained many German Divisions and undoubtedly had a profound influence on its later successes in the West.

Russia—As in the West so in Eastern Europe the Germans and their satellites are being swept back by the onslaught of Allied arms. Our Russian Allies have accounted for Germany, Bulgaria and Finland. The British have liberated Greece and cut off large German forces in Crete and the Aegean Isles. The Russians have entered Yugoslavia and Hungary, they have invaded Poland in depth and have reached the gates of Warsaw. They are now fighting within East Prussia. Soon they will be hammering on the doors of Germany proper and retribution will strike the misguided people of that country. But I should not like to express an opinion on when the struggle in Europe will end, the Nazis are fighting with fatalistic desperation and it may be several months before they are finally beaten.

Pacific—If the beginning of the end is apparent in Europe in Asia and the South West Pacific the end of the beginning has come. Between them Admiral Nimitz and General MacArthur have established supremacy over a great expanse of the South West Pacific until now American troops have landed on Leyte, in the Central Philippines, and established a firm base there. This is not only athwart Japan's link with her conquests in the East Indies and Malaya but brings Formosa well within bombing range of U.S. land based planes. The American Navy has just won a great sea victory over the Japanese in the Battle of Philippines. As the full might of the Anglo-American fleets grows in the Pacific so does Japan's hold upon the territories she has overrun become more tenuous. Soon, the Allies should be in a position to wrest these territories from the enemy and liberate them.

Burma—On the mainland of Asia, the picture is in some respects brighter and in others darker. In recent months we have witnessed a triumph of Allied arms along the Indo-Burma border, where the rash Japanese attempt to invade India has been flung back with heavy loss. The Japanese have suffered no fewer than 50,000 killed their total casualties cannot be computed. What is certain is that their plans have been frustrated.

I will not speculate upon future developments in this theatre which is the responsibility of South East Asia Command. But I know this—that we can continue to rely upon our Indian soldiers to wage war against the Japs with the same determination and skill as they have shown in recent months. Aided by British formations and by British troops within our Indian Divisions and by American and Chinese forces they must undoubtedly spell disaster for all the Japanese remaining in Burma and in fact, in the conquered territories. The Allied Air Forces—British and American and Indian are supreme over Burma and the Eastern Fleet with growing strength has been striking hard towards the East Indies.

China—But we must expect a long and bitter struggle before this comes about. In recent weeks the Japs have strengthened their hold on the mainland of China by driving forward into the heart of South China and depriving the Allies of some of the forward airfields from which American planes have bombed Japan and Manchuria. That shows that the Far Eastern Fascists still have great reserves of strength—reserves which will need to be dissipated hit by hit by our offensive skill tenacity and courage.

India as a developed base—As members of this House are perhaps aware, India has been developing into a mighty base from which large scale offensives may be launched. The training of the Indian armed forces in the peculiar form of warfare necessitated by the difficult terrain over which they will have to fight has proceeded apace. That this training is efficient is shown by their recent achievements. Not only on land, but in the air and at sea, India's

fighting men have acquitted themselves nobly. The Indian Air Force has continued to range far and wide over Burma and reconnaissance and dive-bombing. The Royal Indian Navy continues to harry the enemy's flank off the coast of Burma, and also to help the Royal Navy in meeting the menace of underwater attack in the Indian Ocean.

As to the Indian Army, it is a fact that those who are in the best position to judge of the morale and fighting spirit of our men are not only satisfied with them but are proud to fight with Indian troops. Actions speak louder than words and the renown in which India's warriors are held throughout the world has never been higher. From the Prime Minister of England downwards, fitting tribute has been paid to their feats.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Will the Honourable Member kindly give us a summary of that statement so that we may be in a position to put supplementary questions?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) The question has been answered. Next question.

POST-WAR INDUSTRIALIZATION PLAN PREPARED BY CERTAIN INDUSTRIALISTS

62. *Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Planning and Development, be pleased to state if his attention has been drawn to a plan prepared by certain industrialists for the post-war industrialization of the country at an approximate cost of Rs. 1,500 crores? If so, what are the main features of the scheme?

(b) What are the Government's views thereon, and what steps are being taken to examine the same in collaboration with the industrialists?

(c) What other measures do Government propose to adopt to industrialize India after the War? If none, why?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshtir Dalal: (a) Government are not aware of a post-war industrialisation plan at an approximate cost of Rs. 1,500 crores. The Honourable Member is presumably referring to a plan of economic development for India prepared by Sir Purshotumdas Thakurdas, Mr. J. R. D. Tata and others. Government have seen this plan and a copy of it is available in the Library.

(b) and (c) I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to the "Second Report" on Reconstruction Planning" a copy of which I place on the table of the House.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I ask whether the Government converted the Honourable Member who was one of the authors of the Plan or whether he converted the Government?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) Order, order.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: With reference to part (b) of the question, will the Honourable Member tell me what are the Government's views on the Industrialists Plan?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshtir Dalal: Government have accepted the objectives of the Industrialists Plan, but they are preparing a plan of their own on their own lines. When the Resolution of Dr. Sir Zia Uddin comes up for discussion we will go into further details.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: May I ask the Honourable Gentleman if the Government have accepted the objectives of that Plan?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshtir Dalal: Yes.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Is not that plan very damaging to the country?

(No answer)

Sardar Mangal Singh: May I ask if the Government have accepted the position that the income of the agriculturist will be increased by 1½ per cent. and that of the industrialist will be increased by three times?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshtir Dalal: It is the output of the industry and the output of agriculture and not the income of the industrialists and the agriculturists.

Sardar Mangal Singh. The objective laid down in that Plan was to increase the income of the industrialists and the town people by three times and that of the rural people by $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Is it not so?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshtir Dalal: No, Sir. I think the Honourable Member is labouring under some misapprehension, but all these difficulties will be cleared up when we discuss the Resolution of Dr Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad.

Mr President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) It cannot be discussed now.

INSULT TO MR FRANK R. ANTHONY BY A MILITARY OFFICER AT JUBBULPORE RAILWAY STATION

63. *Mr Lalchand Navalsai: (a) Has the attention of the War Secretary been drawn to the conduct of a military officer at Jubbulpore Station on or about the 19th August, 1944, in insulting Mr Anthony, an Honourable Member of this House, and not allowing him to occupy the berth reserved for him?

(b) Is it a fact that this passenger actually threatened to shoot the Honourable Mr Anthony with his revolver?

(c) Why was not such a passenger arrested then and there and handed over to the police?

(d) Is it a fact that he defied a British G M P who tried to interfere and persuade him to yield?

(e) Is it a fact that one R T C Capt Kapoor provided Mr Anthony a berth in another compartment?

(f) Who was the concerned culprit? Was he a British or an American?

(g) What action have Government taken against him?

Mr O. M. Trivedi: (a) and (f) The incident has come to my notice, but the facts are otherwise than as originally reported.

One Major Ruggles of the U S Army and three other officers were travelling in a four berth compartment in a coach reserved for the personnel of the Defence Services which arrived at Jubbulpore at 7-30 p.m. on the 16th August. All of them had made reservations. A couple of days previously, my Honourable friend Mr Anthony, had asked a friend employed on the Railway to make a reservation for him to join the train at Jubbulpore, but through a mistake on the part of the Railway authorities Mr Anthony's reservation card was placed on the door of the compartment in which the four officers concerned were travelling. Mr Anthony entered the compartment when three of the occupants were in the dining car. These officers, including Major Ruggles, returned to the compartment and asked Mr Anthony to leave as there was no place for him. Mr Anthony contended that accommodation had been booked for him in the same compartment and in the resultant argument, Major Ruggles, who had Mr Anthony's luggage removed from the compartment made use of some forceful language. No violence was offered to Mr Anthony, who was then found accommodation in another compartment.

(b) No. Sir. Mr Anthony himself has denied this allegation in his statement.

(c) and (g) Do not arise in view of the facts stated in reply to (a) above, but I should add that on arrival at Bombay, Major Ruggles was detained by the United States authorities, but later allowed to proceed to U S A after investigation which established that he had not committed any offence.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Yes, Sir.

Mr Lalchand Navalsai. Will the Honourable Member who is present here make a statement as there is a difference between the statement of the Army Secretary and the facts that I have given? If the Honourable Member chooses to make a statement he might do so.

Mr Frank R. Anthony: Sir, have I your permission to make a statement?

Mr President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) The Honourable Member cannot answer the question.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Is it not a fact that the officer went to his bed and took out the revolver when Mr Anthony left?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: No, Sir Mr Anthony himself has denied this in his statement

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai. Mr Anthony himself told me that the officer did bend down

(No answer)

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: What sort of words were used because the Honourable Member has said that forceful language was used?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: Of course, I have said that the language used was forceful and my Honourable friend Mr Anthony will bear me out that he himself also used forceful language

Mr. Frank R. Anthony: That is not correct It is entirely incorrect

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) Order, Order Next question

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: But, Sir, the Honourable the Army Secretary has not given me the words actually used I did not ask whether the Honourable Member (Mr Frank R Anthony) also used a forceful language Did the military officer at the time of using the word point to the revolver or the pistol?

Mr C. M. Trivedi: No, -Sir I have already said that Mr Anthony has denied this allegation in his statement

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) Next question

APPLICATIONS FOR SCHEDULE VII LEASES UNDER CANTONMENT LAND
ADMINISTRATION RULES

64 ***Mr H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait** (on behalf of **Seth Yusuf Abdoolla Haroon**) (a) Will the Honourable the Defence Member please lay on the table with reference to the Cantonment Land Administration Rules, 1937 a statement for the years 1937, 1938, 1939, 1940, 1941, 1942, 1943 and 1944, showing by Cantonments the number of applications received for the grant of leases in form Schedule VII of the said Rules, and the number of applications rejected?

(b) Is it a fact that, although the Rules leave the disposal of applications for leases in form Schedule VII to the Military Estate Officers at their discretion without any reference to any superior authority these officers are, by executive orders, required to submit all applications to higher authorities?

(c) If the answer to (b) above is in the affirmative, will the Honourable Member please quote the authority enabling the Government to override the provisions of the law on this point, i.e., Rule 27 of the Cantonment Land Administration Rules, 1937?

(d) Will the Honourable Member also please lay on the table a copy of the orders requiring Military Estates Officers to refer to higher authorities all applications received for the grant of leases in form Schedule VII of the above Rules?

(e) Is it a fact that when the above Rules were before this Assembly, Government had given the House an assurance that the Rules would be interpreted in action in a liberal spirit and leases in the above form would be issued freely and that it was on the strength of this assurance that the Rules were adopted by the Assembly, and which assurance, consequently, on the adoption of the Rules by the Assembly, constituted for Government their guiding policy as approved by the Assembly?

(f) Is it a fact that Government have since then adopted a policy of restricting the grant of leases in form Schedule VII as much as possible?

(g) If the answer to (f) above is in the affirmative, will the Honourable Member please quote the resolution of this Assembly, if any, authorizing such variation of the policy approved by this House?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: (a) Information has been called for and will be laid on the table when received

(b) and (c) An executive instruction was issued which would at first sight appear to be in conflict with rule 27, as rule 27 says that an Estate

Officer may without reference to superior authority grant a lease. On the other hand, it must be remembered that all Estate Officers work under the general supervision of superior authority and that they exercise their administrative discretion subject to the views and policies of superior authority. However in view of the fact that there may be some doubt with regard to the legal position Government propose to take the necessary steps to amend the rule so as to clarify the position in accordance with the policy of Government as hitherto followed.

(d) It is not in the public interest to publish confidential instructions or correspondence.

(e) No Sir. The Cantonment Land Administration Rules 1937 were made under the provisions of section 280 of the Cantonments Act 1924 which empower the Central Government to make rules referred to therein and previous publication. These rules were therefore never discussed in the Legislative Assembly. They have however been interpreted in practice as liberally as possible.

It is the duty of all Government Departments to protect the interests of the taxpayer and seeing that no financial interests of Government are sacrificed owing to negligence on the part of any public servant and all steps that have been taken in this direction were always in the public interest.

(f) No Sir. It must however be remembered that Cantonments are primarily intended for the accommodation of troops and unrestricted building in Cantonments can lead to such overcrowding as to make the areas unfit and unsafe for the habitation of troops.

(g) Does not arise.

Mr Lalchand Navarai May I know from the Honourable Member if the rules he has referred to allow the grant of leases and also authority to them to sub-lease?

Mr O M Trivedi I have got Rule 27 before me. I am not fully acquainted with all the details but I can read out the rule if the Honourable Member so desires.

APPLICATIONS FOR SCHEDULE VI LEASES UNDER CANTONMENT LAND ADMINISTRATION RULES

65 *Mr H A Sathar H Essak Sait (on behalf of **Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon**) (i) I the Honourable the Defence Member aware that the position indicated in the foregoing questions has been responsible for the existence of discontent and some friendship and injustice among a class of loyal citizens who have rendered and are rendering valuable services to the Army Department?

(b) In view of the above questions what steps do Government propose to take with a view to ensuring—

(i) that the Rules in question are strictly adhered to

(ii) that executive orders constituting an infringement of and operating against the spirit of the legislation are immediately withdrawn and

(iii) that confidence in the Government's bona fides is restored among the landholders in Cantonments by issuing a press note reaffirming the assurance given by Government at the time the Cantonment Land Administration Rules 1937 were passed by the Assembly and issuing necessary instructions to Military Estate Officers that all applications for leases in form Schedule VII of the Cantonment Land Administration Rules should be freely sanctioned without any reference to any superior authority?

Mr O M Trivedi (a) No

(b) (i) (ii) and (iii) The Honourable Member is referred to my answer to parts (b) and (c) of the preceding question No 64.

STATEMENT ON FINANCE MEMBER'S WORK RE FINANCIAL SAFEGUARD OF INDIA

66 *Dr Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member lay on the table a full statement of the work he did in connection with financial safeguard of the country during his foreign tour?

(b) Will the Honourable Member give an opportunity to this Assembly to discuss the statement of the Honourable Member?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: The main object of my foreign tour was to lead the Indian delegation to the International Monetary Conference at Bretton Woods. The results of the work done there will appear in the Final Act of the Conference of which two copies have been placed in the Library of the House and which in due course will form the subject of discussion in the House. Subsequent to the Conference, accompanied by the Governor of the Reserve Bank of India and the Economic Adviser to the Government of India, I had a preliminary discussion of an informal and exploratory character with the experts of the British Treasury in London regarding India's sterling balance. No decisions were taken, nor was either side in a position to undertake any commitments, and the discussions related mainly to a programme for more formal discussions in the future.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: When does the Honourable Member expect to bring the Bretton Woods proposals before this House?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I said that the Final Act of the conference has already been placed in the Library of the House and that the subject will in due course, be discussed in the House.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: What does 'due course' mean—this Session or next Session?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: It will be premature to consider the subject in this House until we know what is the likely reaction first in America and second, in Britain, because unless those two countries decide to adhere to the agreement, there will be no scheme for any other countries to adhere to.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Will the Honourable Member make a statement to the House, either now or at any time during this Session, indicating what are the advantages, if any, to India of the adherence either to the Fund or the Bank, considering that India has got an enormous credit balance due from the United Kingdom?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I will endeavour to have the material prepared for the assistance of members when the debate is likely to take place. I shall endeavour to have some material prepared on the lines suggested by the Honourable Member.

Mr. Manu Subedar: To the extent to which the Honourable Member, by his presence and by taking part in the discussions, has already approved of the objects of this Conference, would he not mention to us now in what way these objects will serve India?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: It is hardly a matter which could be suitably dealt with in the course of question and answer.

Mr. Manu Subedar: That is why I suggested a statement in the course of this Session, if the Honourable Member chooses.

STEPS FOR STABILISATION OF PRICES

67. *Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state what steps he has taken since the last meeting of the Assembly to stabilise the prices in this country?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: The policy of the Government of India designed to secure a stabilisation of prices within the country in the spheres of taxation, borrowing, bullion sales, etc., as outlined in my last Budget speech has been pursued with vigour. The Government have the matter under continual review and suitable action is taken as and when conditions permit. Some new commodity controls have recently been introduced which, together with further action under the previously existing controls and under the Hoarding and Profiteering Prevention Ordinance have resulted in an appreciable lowering of prices during the last six months. In the vital matter of food, price control is being strengthened, imports are being steadily

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increased and reserve stocks built up in various Provinces and ports. Continual improvement is being effected in the procurement machinery of supplying areas and in the speeding up of movement, while the rationing of urban areas is also being steadily extended.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Is the Honourable Member aware of the fact that under the powerful influence of Professor Keynes, England has succeeded in maintaining the price level of 1939 during the war?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: No country has succeeded in maintaining the price level of 1939 during the war, as far as I am aware.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: With a very slight modification. They have kept it within ten per cent of the pre-war price level or very near it.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: It depends on what is meant by 'very near'.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Is the Honourable Member aware that India is one of the countries, probably next to China and Persia, which is suffering most from inflation. Has he considered the desirability of stopping the use of the printing press and throwing out several crores of notes every week in addition to the existing circulation?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Has any Honourable friend considered whether it would be advantageous for Government to stop all payments including payments to the class which he represents?

Prof. N G Ranga: Is the Honourable Member aware of the fact that so long as he does not stop this inflation and throwing of additional notes on the people, if he continues this policy of controlling food prices, the peasants are likely to suffer because the prices of all other goods will go up, while their own prices are kept down?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I am afraid that is a subject which could hardly be dealt with in answer to a question.

PERSONS IN DETENTION UNDER DEFENCE OF INDIA RULES

68 *Sardar Sant Singh: Will the Honourable the Home Member please state

(a) the number of persons in detention under the Defence of India Rules on the 15th October, 1944—

(i) under the orders of the Government of India, and

(ii) under the orders of the various Provincial Governments,

(b) the number of persons released from the 1st of January, 1944, to the 15th October, 1944, both by the Central and Provincial Governments,

(c) was any condition imposed on the released persons such as periodically reporting themselves to the Police Station, if so, were any instructions issued by the Government of India to Provincial Administrations in this connection,

(d) has the attention of the Government of India been drawn to the very humiliating conditions imposed on ex-detenus by the Punjab Government, was the Government of India consulted in the matter, if not, will the Government of India make an enquiry into the matter?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) and (b) In respect of persons detained under the orders of Provincial Governments, I have information only upto the 1st September, 1944. I would also remind the Honourable Member that no persons are now detained under the Defence of India Rules. They are detained under Ordinance III of 1944.

The figures are —

(a) Central Government and Chief Commissioners' Provinces	88
Provincial Governments	2,447
(b) Central Government and Chief Commissioners' Provinces	57
Provincial Governments	5,068

(c) Conditions are sometimes imposed on release if that is considered necessary. Provincial Governments were informed that in the opinion of the Government of India the imposition of suitable restrictive orders on released

detenus in appropriate cases is preferable to asking detenus before release to give undertakings of good behaviour

(d) No

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai. Can the Honourable Member give me any figures about the province of Sind and tell me how many people are still under detention and whether their cases have been examined yet

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie. The great majority of the persons detained in Sind are Hurs

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai. Apart from the Hurs, does the Honourable Member know that some Members of the Assembly are in jail and they are not being allowed to come out, because the Ministry there wants to maintain its position intact?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I can accept no responsibility for the detailed acts of any Provincial Government under this Ordinance

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai. May I know if the Central Government has power and if it is also desirable for the Central Government at least to examine those cases which the Government of Sind or of any other Province have refused to send for and see for themselves that justice is done to them?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: That is quite impossible

Sardar Sant Singh: As regards part (c) of this question, may I know whether the instructions issued to the Provincial Governments for imposing conditions upon those detenus who are released are uniformly issued to all the provinces or only to some of them?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie. As I have already said, instructions were issued to all provinces. That is what I said

Sardar Sant Singh. Is it a fact that such conditions that have been issued have been examined by the Central Government to see whether they were fit conditions or humiliating conditions?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie. No, the Central Government can accept no responsibility for conditions imposed by Provincial Governments

Sardar Sant Singh. I am not asking about the responsibility. I am only asking whether the Central Government has examined the conditions to see whether they are humiliating to the self-respect of the detenus?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie. Certainly not, that is not one of our functions

Sardar Sant Singh. My question has not been answered

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) He has said that the Central Government has not

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie. My answer was "Certainly not"

Sardar Sant Singh. May I know why the Central Government does not examine the conditions under which these releases have taken place?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) He has said it is not the business of the Central Government

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I ask whether the Government of India will take steps to examine the cases of the detenus within six months by an impartial committee instead of by Government officials?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I do not think, Sir, that that arises

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: May I ask if the Honourable Member is aware as to how many Honourable Members of this House are detained under Ordinance III of 1944?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: That also, I submit, does not arise

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I ask whether the Honourable Member is aware that the Ordinance itself provides for some examination of these cases within six months by the Government?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I am of course aware, but I do not see how that arises out of this question

Sardar Sant Singh: With regard to the reply to part (d), is it a fact that one of the conditions laid upon those who have been released from detention is that an elected member of the Punjab Legislative Assembly is not allowed to attend the Assembly Session though the Governor issues a summons to him to attend?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: Part (d) of the question was—

‘Has the attention of Government been drawn to certain allegations?’

The answer was ‘No’. My Honourable friend then proceeds to ask me details about those allegations. Quite clearly if my attention has not been drawn to those allegations, I cannot give details about them. I may add that I should have thought that the Punjab Legislative Assembly was quite capable of looking after itself.

Mr President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) Next question

Sardar Mangal Singh: With regard to the latter part of (d), may I

Mr President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) Next question

DETENTIONS IN CONNECTION WITH THE CONGRESS RESOLUTION OF AUGUST 1942

69. *Sardar Sant Singh: Will the Honourable the Home Member please state the number of persons detained in connection with and after the passing of the Congress resolution on the 9th August, 1942, at Bombay? How many of them are still in detention, and what are the reasons for their continued detention?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: The total number of persons detained at one time or another in connection with the Congress movement was between 17 and 18 thousand of which 2,128 were still in detention on the 1st September, 1944. The reason for keeping the latter in detention is that it is still considered necessary.

Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: How many persons are detained in the United Provinces?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I have no information.

Mr N. M. Joshi: May I ask why Government considers it necessary to detain them still?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: The reasons differ in each particular case.

FORM OF CHARGE SERVED ON A DETENU

70. *Sardar Sant Singh: (a) Will the Honourable the Home Member please lay a copy of any charge that may have been served on a detenu on the table of the House? Is it a fact that charges served did not contain any specific information to the detenu and were generally very vague and almost uniform in language?

(b) Were the detenus permitted to consult their lawyers of their own choice by the jail authorities in order to enable them to submit their defence? If not, why not?

(c) How many replies were received?

(d) Were these replies considered by any judicial authority? If so, by whom, and with what result?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) I regret that, for the reasons underlying the provisions of section 11 of Ordinance III of 1944, I am unable to comply with the Honourable Member's request. The statements of the grounds of their detention communicated to persons detained under that Ordinance comply with the provisions of section 7 thereof.

(b) No For the reason that no question of law arises

(c) 92 replies were received from persons detained by or at the instance of the Central Government including those detained by Chief Commissioners

(d) The answer to the first part of the question is in the negative. The second part does not arise

Sardar Sant Singh: When these charges are handed over to these people in detention, who are mere laymen, why the Government does not permit them to consult their legal adviser to advise them on the legal position whether they do or do not fall under the Ordinance?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie I have answered that

Sardar Sant Singh. May I ask the reason why the Government declines to allow any help to these laymen in framing answers to these charges? Why are not lawyers allowed to be consulted by these detenus?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie I have answered that—part (b) of the question

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) He has said that no question of law arises

Sardar Sant Singh. May I ask that when this liberty of the subject is being restricted under a particular Act, the question of law does arise?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) That is the opinion of the Honourable Member

Sardar Sant Singh I am asking, is the Honourable Member aware that in such cases applications are made to the High Court where the question is gone through?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie. Perhaps I may make the position clear

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) Next question

POLICY AS REGARDS RECRUITING PERSONNEL FOR CIVILIAN SERVICES FROM THE ARMY

71. *Sardar Sant Singh. (a) Will the Honourable the Home Member please make a statement on the policy of the Government of India to recruit personnel for civilian services from the Army?

(b) Has any recruitment actually been made? If so, what are the qualifications of such new recruits (educational, legal, technical)?

(c) What number has actually been recruited, and how many of them are Indians and how many foreigners?

(d) What was the method of selection?

(e) What are the reasons for not consulting the Legislature on this major policy?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie. (a) A copy of the Government of India, Press Communique of the 25th July, 1944, which explains the Government policy in regard to the temporary employment with the civil administration of officers from the army, is placed on the Table of the House

(b) As has been stated in the Press Communique, the type of officer being selected is chiefly taken from the class of persons who would have been competing for posts in the civil administration, if permanent recruitment had not been suspended. Their individual qualifications cannot be stated, but they will be employed in the posts for which their qualifications make them most suited and where they are most needed

(c) 39 officers have so far been selected, of whom 12 are Indians, but the ultimate proportion of British and Indians will be 50/50. No foreigners have been recruited

(d) Selection is made by a Board of which the Chairman of the Federal Public Service Commission is the President

(e) The great majority of the officers who have been or will be selected under the scheme will be employed under Provincial Governments. Only in rare cases would these officers be employed under Government of India.

Press Communiqué

At a time when India's Armed Forces were being rapidly expanded to meet the increasing enemy threat to her shores, the Government of India decided that the demand of those Forces for recruits must be paramount and that permanent recruitment to the Civil Services must be suspended for the time being. A similar policy was adopted in varying degrees by Provincial Governments. The intention was to ensure that the attractions of a civil career should not operate to impede the flow of recruits for Emergency Commissions. It was fully realised that the effect of this decision would be to throw a heavy strain on the civil administration, a strain which would be felt more severely as time passed. A position has now been reached when civil administration can no longer continue without reinforcements and the question has arisen how these can be obtained. Continuing demands made on the open market both by the Armed Forces and by organisations ancillary thereto have seriously reduced the manpower of suitable calibre available for recruitment to civil posts and Government have been obliged to turn to the Army as the only source from which adequate reinforcements can now be obtained. The military authorities have been approached with a request to release temporarily a sufficient number of officers whose services can be lent to Civil Governments in India. Recruitment from this source has the added advantage that it will provide a leavening of older and more experienced men. It should be noted that the type of officer proposed to be selected is exactly the type which would have been competing for posts under the Civil Government had not permanent recruitment been largely suspended in order to give priority to the demands of the Army.

The military authorities have recognised the need for strengthening the civil administration and a special Indian Army Order has been issued calling for volunteers from this Army on certain terms. These are:

- (a) volunteers must be under 50 years of age
- (b) only officers of the Army in India Reserve of Officers, British and Indian Emergency Commissioned Officers of the Indian Army and British Service Emergency Commissioned Officers attached to the Indian Army will be eligible
- (c) the duration of officers thus lent will be for the duration of the war in the Far East and probably for a limited further period thereafter
- (d) such officers will not be members of the regular Services but will be appointed after such preliminary training as is considered desirable to hold posts in the administration for which their qualifications make them best suited. The object will be to maintain and strengthen the general administration and to provide sufficient staff for new and specialised branches of work e.g. work connected with food and Civil Supplies. The candidates are being selected by a Selection Board of which the Chairman or a member, of the Federal Public Service Commission is President. The ratio of recruitment between Indians and Europeans will be 50:50.

Such of the officers selected as are otherwise qualified and willing will be eligible to compete along with other eligible candidates for vacancies reserved for men with war service. Those who are not selected to fill such vacancies will return to the Army on the completion of their service with the civil administration.

It is hoped by these means to enable Civil Governments in India to carry on until permanent recruitment can be resumed.

HOME DEPARTMENT,

New Delhi, the 25th July, 1944

Mr Lalchand Navalrai: May I know whether civil officers are not available and therefore these are imported?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: That is the idea behind the scheme.
Mr Lalchand Navalrai: Are they allowed to stand in a competition before the Public Service Commission?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I would refer the Honourable Member to my reply to part (d).

Mr Govind V Deshmukh: Are persons selected those who have received emergency commission or permanent commission?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: Emergency.

Mr Govind V Deshmukh: What is the position of these persons who have received emergency commissions and are taken as civilian officers, after the war stops?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: As soon as the war stops, they will be returned to the army and demobilised from the army.

STATEMENT ON BRETTON WOODS MONETARY CONFERENCE

72. *Sardar Sant Singh. Will the Honourable the Finance Member please make a statement as to the result of the deputation to the Bretton Woods Conference in the United States of America with particular reference to the dissatisfaction publicly expressed by Sir Shammukham Chetty and Mr W. Shroff, members of the deputation, at the attitude of the United States of America's delegates and British delegates with reference to the several questions relating to India during the discussions in the conference?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman. I invite reference to my answer to question No. 66 asked today by Dr. Sir Za Uddin Ahmad. The report of the Indian delegation to the Bretton Woods Conference has not yet been presented to the Government. When it has been received the question of its release for publication will be considered.

Mr. Mannu Subedar. Will the Honourable Member tell this House whether he voted with or supported the non-official delegates when they tried to raise the issue of sterling balances being returned by the United Kingdom under the scheme of the fund?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman. Certainly, I took the initiative in raising the issue.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari. Will the Honourable Member confirm or deny the allegation contained in the latter part of the question, namely that dissatisfaction was publicly expressed by Sir Shammukham Chetty and Mr. Shroff in regard to the behaviour of the United States and U. K. Delegations?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman. No dissatisfaction regarding their behaviour, but dissatisfaction at their attitude towards the matter. That is a matter of common knowledge and there is no need for me to confirm or deny it.

Prof. N. G. Ranga. Was there complete unanimity among the Indian delegation over the issue that India should obtain a place on the executive of the world monetary conference that was brought into existence?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman. Yes, Sir.

Mr. K. C. Neogy. Is the Honourable Member in a position either to confirm the statements made by these two Members of the delegation or describe these comments as petulant? The Honourable Member himself was head of this delegation.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman. The non-official Members of the delegation made fairly long speeches. I am not quite sure to what particular parts of those speeches the Honourable Member refers. But I have no criticisms to make generally on the statements which they made.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari. Will the Honourable Member, for instance, confirm what these gentlemen have said in regard to a permanent seat for India on the Fund, namely that India lost the chance because of political influences and because of the fact that India was a subordinate Member of the British Commonwealth of Nations?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman. That is a factor which undoubtedly weighed in the decision.

Mr. Mannu Subedar. Having regard to the fact that India failed to secure a permanent place, and that France, China and other countries less deserving have got a place, does the Honourable Member still think that there is a definite advantage to India in joining this Fund under those humiliating circumstances and scramble for one seat with all the little people of the world?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman. Sir, if the rules for election of Members to the executive directorate are studied, it will become clear that

India cannot fail to obtain a seat on the directorate and therefore the question whether she automatically obtains a place without election seems to me not of very great importance.

Mr K. C. Neogy : May I know whether in his reply to my Honourable friend Mr. Krishnamachari's question he intended to convey that the subordinate status of India did count in regard to the question of a permanent seat being assigned to India?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman : I do not know. The Honourable Member can interpret or make such inferences as he likes. The plain fact of the matter is that in regard to the constitution of the first five places, undoubtedly the idea of the big Five which has since emerged in other spheres was operative.

Prof. N. G. Ranga : Is the Honourable Member aware of the fact that one of the Members of this Delegation has publicly stated that an important Member of the American Delegation told him that the reason why America opposed India's claim for membership to the executive committee was the fact that India was a subordinate part of the British Empire and that Americans would not stand the idea of two seats on the executive committee for the British Empire?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman : My attention has been drawn to that statement.

Prof. N. G. Ranga : What steps do the Government of India propose to take to see that this sort of difficulty is not presented to India in future sessions of this conference and also in other World conferences where India would be entitled in her own rights to independent membership on the executive committee?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman : I do not know what steps the Honourable Member can suggest that the Government of India should take.

Prof. N. G. Ranga : May I suggest to the Honourable Member to make an application, if he can, to his masters in England that India should be severed from the British Empire so that India can be assured of her rightful place in all the executive committees that may be formed in the World Monetary and other conferences that may be brought into existence in the post-war period?

Mr President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : Next question.

Prof. N. G. Ranga : (The Honourable Member has not given a reply to my question.)

Mr President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : Evidently he is not prepared to reply.

Prof. N. G. Ranga : He asked me specifically for a suggestion and I have made the suggestion.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : Next question.

ARRANGEMENT RE LIQUIDATION OF INDIA'S STERLING BALANCES

73. *Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh : Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state what arrangement, if any, has been arrived at regarding the liquidation of India's sterling balances between His Majesty's Government and the Government of India? Is the question of India's Sterling balances a question between the two Governments or a question to be decided by the United Nations?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman : No arrangement of the nature suggested by the Honourable Member has yet been arrived at. The matter is one for discussion between His Majesty's Government and the Government of India.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh : As I learn from the answer, it may be a matter for discussion between His Majesty's Government and the Government of India. But the latter part of my question has not been answered. "Is the question

of India's sterling balances a question between the two Governments or a question to be decided by the United Nations?"

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I replied that the matter is one for discussion between His Majesty's Government and the Government of India.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Is it a fact, as has been published in newspapers that these sterling balances will be repaid only in the shape of goods to India?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: That is not a matter of decision. That is a result which may flow from the facts of the situation.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Will the Honourable the Finance Member make it clear to the House in view of the reply given in the Parliament this morning by Sir John Anderson, in what form the sterling balances are at present, under what conditions they can be operated upon or withdrawn and what is the latest available figure of these balances?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: As regards the last point, there is a question later on today and in answer thereto, I shall give the figures. As regards the other point, the actual form in which the sterling balances are held, I require notice.

Prof N G Ranga: Did the Honourable Member bring to the notice of His Majesty's Government in England with whom he was conferring the grave concern felt in all circles in this country about the rumoured proposal presented to him for post cancellation of India's sterling balances in England?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: No proposals of that kind have been presented to me.

Mr. Manu Subedar: The Honourable Member said just now in reply to my question that he wants notice. May I enquire if thereby he wants to convey that either he has not got information now or that he is unwilling to give it to the House as to in what form the sterling balances belonging to India are in the United Kingdom?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: The Honourable Member is surely aware that this is a matter of investment policy of the Reserve Bank in the Issue Branch in which the greater part of these sterling balances are held. They are of course, for the most part held in the form of treasury bills, but if my Honourable friend wants a detailed answer, I will have to refer to certain detailed reports.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: Can the Honourable Member indicate to us when the negotiations will be resumed?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I can only say that it will be taken up at the earliest possible moment. As far as I can judge, it is unlikely to be earlier than next spring.

PROGRAMME OF POST-WAR RECONSTRUCTION

74. *Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: Will the Honourable Member of Planning and Development please state

(a) if the Government of India have now ready any unified comprehensive scheme and programme of post-war reconstruction, if so, whether they will give the House an opportunity to discuss it, if so, when?

(b) if, in view of the end of the war and the breaking down of the Powers being in sight, the Government of India propose to draw up now an All-India plan for the economic development of India and measures to give effect to it, whether they are aware that Nations which are much more involved in war have started it more than a year ago, and

(c) if Government have adopted in a modified form or partly or wholly without any modification what is known as the Bombay Industrialists Plan for the economic Development of India?

The Honourable Sir Ardschir Dalal: (a) No. The plan is being prepared.

(b) and (c) I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to the Government's "Second Report on Reconstruction Planning" which has recently been issued

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh. These Reconstruction Committees are working for a year and a half. May I know when the unified comprehensive scheme is likely to be ready?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: The whole plan of reconstruction and development of the country is a very important business and will certainly take a very long time.

Mr. Lalchand Navalkar: Will it go on till the end of the war?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: It might.

Prof N G Ranga: Is the Honourable Member aware that in view of his earlier statement that the objectives of the Bombay plan have been accepted by the Government of India, grave discontent prevails among more than a crore of handloom weavers and many more crores of other artisans in this country, that no effort was made in that plan for providing for the further development and production and rationalisation of these cottage industries of this country?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: No, Sir. The Bombay Plan itself also lays emphasis on the development of cottage industries. When we come up to the Resolution we will go into it, but I might explain that when the general objectives of the Bombay Plan have been accepted by Government what I mean is the objective of raising the standard of living of the people and improving their purchasing power. It does not mean that every detailed suggestion that is made in the Bombay Plan has been accepted by Government.

Prof N G. Ranga: Then may we take it that the various main heads for the development of industrialisation of this country are not all-inclusive, but on the other hand are only indicative and other heads as can be suggested and are accepted by Government can also be included?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: Yes, Sir.

Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali: Have Government got any other plan of reconstruction besides the Bombay Plan?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: Government have got a plan of their own. They are prepared to utilise other plans and take what is good in them, but they are not tied to any particular plan. They are preparing a plan of their own.

Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali: When will that plan be known to this House?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: I just answered that in reply to my Honourable friend Mr. Deshmukh.

STEPS FOR FLOATING LOAN TO GIVE SUBSIDY TO AGRICULTURISTS

75. *Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh. Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state what steps, if any, have been taken to give effect to the motion moved by me and adopted by the House on the 1st March, 1944, in respect of floating loan to give subsidy to agriculturists? In case subsidies are given, will a list be placed on the table showing the amount and purpose of the subsidy received by each province?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Government have accepted the resolution in its broad sense. They are doing every thing possible to step up their borrowing on the one hand and on the other they are prepared to do every thing that is possible and useful in order to produce more food, including milk and milk products, as a part of the "Grow More Food" campaign. I place on the table a statement showing the grants made to Provinces and States in connection with the "Grow More Food" campaign in 1944-45, up to date.

Statement showing the grants made to Provinces and States in connection with the "Grow More Food" Campaign in 1944-45

Description of schemes	Madras	Bombay	Bengal	United Provinces	Punjab	Bihar	C P and Bihar	Assam	N W F P	Orissa	And
	Rs	Rs.	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs.	Rs	Rs	Rs
1. Diversion of areas from cotton to food crops	-	89,500									
2. Improvement and distribution of seeds	1,90,188	5,94,875	5,11,050	1,03,830	2,90,000	1,99,566	2,09,500	1,60,500	1,96,467		
3. Supply and improvement of manure	2,91,000	6,21,000	54,000	2,57,140	2,54,910	60,000	2,38,000	24,250	85,000		
4. Irrigation and drainage schemes	89,250	11,51,890	2,38,005	5,34,500	7,00,000	8,76,970	74,000	1,15,000	6,63,500	1,06,000	
5. Reclamation of waste lands and improvement of existing lands	1,99,966	-			6,00,000		70,110		44,000		
6. Bunding and Dry farming	-	15,00,000	21,950								
7. Increase of salt production	-	-									
8. Research	-	-									
9. Miscellaneous	4,01,000	84,300	2,00,000	2,000	1,70,800		1,25,400		1,45,836	88,000	
Total	19,02,354	29,42,405	10,45,095	9,09,490	15,54,910	13,46,770	6,81,776	4,85,150	8,24,000	5,07,303	88,000

Statement showing the grants made to Provinces and States in connection with the "Grow More Food" Campaign in 1944-45

Description of schemes	Ajmer-Merwara	Baluchistan	Baroda	I C A R	Total
	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs
1 Diversion of areas from cotton to food crops	21,996		4,01,000		4,22,496
2 Improvement and distribution of seeds	61,116	20,653			22,74,815
3 Supply and improvement of manures	6,900	13,550	33,750		21,50,500
4 Irrigation and drainage schemes		30,000	2,14,500		48,13,645
5 Reclamation of waste lands and improvement of existing lands			52,000		9,66,076
6 Bunding and Dry farming					16,00,000
7 Increase of fish production	..	..	..		21,850
8 Research	..	..		2,73,400	2,73,400
9 Miscellaneous	..	32,500	18,000		12,77,836
Total	90,012	96,703	7,19,250	2,73,400	1,37,60,518

Prof. N. G. Ranga Is the Honourable Member aware that though in the name of the "Grow More Food" campaign the Government of India have been setting apart certain funds, the various Provincial Governments have been cancelling the land revenue remissions that had been ordered as long ago as 1937, and continued year after year and are thus positively discouraging the "Grow More Food" campaign in the provinces?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman If certain land revenue remissions have been cancelled I have no doubt that that is being done on other grounds, but that does not relate directly, in my opinion, to the question of encouraging the "Grow More Food" campaign.

Prof. N. G. Ranga But is the Honourable Member aware that the cancellation of these concessions imposed as high a burden as 75 lakhs of rupees per annum upon a province like Madras, for instance? It certainly discourages the "Grow More Food" campaign.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) That is the Honourable Member's own opinion.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee May I know in what way the funds which are placed at the disposal of Provincial Governments for the "Grow More Food" campaign are being utilised?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman I have laid a statement on the table but, as far as I understand, those funds are utilised for the purpose of encouraging the growing of more food.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee By mere propaganda or by financial help or otherwise?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman I think in all possible ways, but I cannot give details. Administration is a matter within the scope of the Education, Health and Lands Department.

MURDERS AND OUTRAGES IN CALCUTTA ON INDIANS BY AMERICANS AND AMERICAN NEGROES.

†76. ***Sardar Sant Singh**: (a) Will the Honourable the Home Member please give information on the following matters to the House—

(i) murders and murderous assaults committed by Americans and American negroes on Indians and on sikh motor drivers in Calcutta in 1942, 1943 and 1944,

(ii) outrages on women in Calcutta with particular reference to forcible kidnapping of Indian girls in American jeeps, and

(iii) in the Grand Hotel and Great Eastern, Calcutta, on or about the 5th August, 1944, on the America's Independent Day, what damage was done to the property of these Hotels?

†Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner having exhausted his quota.

(b) Is it a fact that when the Americans were threatened to be informed against, one of them declared that he was the Head of the American Military Police and his companion was another officer in the same and hence no purpose would be served by reporting?

(c) Is it a fact that the matter had to be dropped?

(d) How many times motor drivers struck work there? How long did each strike last?

(e) What action was taken against these activities of foreigners in India?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: Information is being collected and will be laid on the table in due course

CABIN RENT PAID BY ROYAL INDIAN NAVY OFFICERS WHEN SERVING AFLOAT.

77 *Sir F. E. James: Will the War Secretary be pleased to state—

(a) if it is a fact that officers of the R I N and its reserves pay rent at 5 per cent of their pay for their cabin accommodation when serving afloat, and

(b) if this is the practice in the Royal Navy, if not, why it has been adopted in the R I N?

Mr C. M. Trivedi: (a) Yes, Sir

(b) The answer to the first part is in the negative. As regards the second part, the pay structures in the Royal Navy and the Royal Indian Navy are different. In the Royal Navy, basic pay does not include any element on account of accommodation, which is provided free when afloat, and sometimes also on shore. If accommodation on shore is not provided free, an allowance is given. In the Royal Indian Navy, however, the basic pay already includes an allowance for accommodation, hence the deduction made by Government.

Sir F. E. James: Is my Honourable friend aware that the deduction is made from the pay of the officer, whether he has a cabin to himself or shares a cabin with six, eight or ten other officers?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: That is correct.

Sir F. E. James: Can my Honourable friend tell me whether this practice obtains in any other navy in the world, even in navies whose pay structure is roughly similar to that in the Royal Indian Navy?

Mr C. M. Trivedi: I have no information about navies in other parts of the British Commonwealth where the pay structure includes an element on account of accommodation.

Sir F. E. James: Will my Honourable friend look into this matter, because there is a strong feeling among officers of the Royal Indian Navy, which any sensible man would share, that this is a ridiculous deduction to make for this particular purpose?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: I do not agree that this is a ridiculous deduction to make. I can understand the feelings of officers from whom deductions are made, but as pay includes an element on account of accommodation the provision of accommodation necessarily entails deduction of that element.

Sir F. E. James: Is any differentiation made between a deduction made from the pay of an officer who has a cabin in a ship that goes into action, and the deduction from the pay of an officer who has a cabin in a ship which is more or less operating in safe waters?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: So far as I am aware, no differentiation is made.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Why is there this difference between the Royal Navy and the Royal Indian Navy?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: I do not see that there is any differentiation in treatment. In the Royal Navy accommodation is provided free and in the Royal Indian Navy the pay element includes an element on account of accommodation. So when Government provide accommodation a deduction is made. There is no differentiation.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: Have Government considered whether this operates in any way as a hardship on these officers?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: I have not heard any such complaints.

STEPS FOR IMPROVING THE CONDITION OF RATINGS, PETTY OFFICERS, ETC IN THE ROYAL INDIAN NAVY

78. *Sir F. E. James. With reference to my speech on the Finance Bill on the 20th March, 1944, dealing with the Royal Indian Navy, will the War Secretary please state what steps have since been taken or are under immediate consideration—

- (i) to increase the number of trained personnel,
- (ii) to improve the pensions of ratings, petty officers and chief petty officers, which, in some cases, had not been increased since the last Great War and were only a quarter of I A F rates,
- (iii) to authorise Chief Petty Officers to travel second class on railways, as in the case of V C O s, and generally to improve their status,
- (iv) to give training allowances and extra pay to junior ratings doing senior ratings' work,
- (v) to provide married quarters for ratings, and
- (vi) to increase the awards for meritorious service, long service and good conduct, and in the case of long service, the amount of the gratuity?

Mr C. M. Trivedi: (i) I am glad to be able to inform the Honourable Member that steps to increase the number of trained personnel in the Royal Indian Navy are well advanced. The training establishment for new entries is nearing completion and training is already in full swing. A training squadron has also been formed to give ratings some sea experience before they are drafted out of the training establishment.

It is expected that the new Mechanical Training Establishment will be ready to take over the instruction of engineering personnel by the end of this year, while radar training has already commenced and the new radar school will shortly be ready for occupation.

Since the end of February 1944, when the Honourable Member raised this question in the House, the number of trained active service personnel has increased by about 22 per cent.

(ii) and (iii) These matters are still under consideration. The Honourable Member and the House may rest assured that they will receive careful consideration by Government.

(iv) Chief Petty Officers, Petty Officers and Leading rates have since been granted a training allowance.

The question of paying extra pay to junior ratings doing senior ratings' work is still under discussion.

(v) The necessity for providing married accommodation for R I N ratings has been accepted in principle, but the scheme cannot be implemented until after the war.

(vi) The number of these awards has been increased. Proposals for the increase of gratuity have not yet come before Government.

Sir F. E. James: With reference to the answer to part (vi) of the question, will my Honourable friend state precisely what awards are now given each year?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: Fortunately, I have got the details. The number of awards given before the revision in the case of Meritorious Service Medal was 10. It has now been raised to 17. The number of Long Service and Good Conduct Medal awards (with gratuity of Rs. 25 each) before the revision was two, now it is 34 per annum. The number of Long Service and Good Conduct awards (without gratuity) before revision was 1, now it is 17.

Sir F. E. James: With regard to the answer to part (iii) of the question, am I to understand that Chief Petty Officers are still at a disadvantage as compared with V C O s in the matter of railway travel?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: I think the answer is yes.

Sir F. E. James: My Honourable friend will perhaps realize that the matter was raised several months ago and he, on behalf of the Department, promised very early consideration of this matter. May I ask whether that consideration can be expedited in order to remove what is quite obviously an invidious dis-

tion between the Chief Petty Officers in the Royal Indian Navy and the V C Os in the Land Army?

Mr. O. M. Trivedi: I am fully aware of the position in the matter which is receiving active consideration but I am afraid there are many difficulties chiefly due to lack of accommodation on railways.

Sir F. E. James: Does my Honourable friend really mean to suggest that the reason why he cannot improve the status of the Chief Petty Officer in the Royal Indian Navy in the matter of railway travel is lack of accommodation on the railway trains?

Mr. O. M. Trivedi: I said 'chiefly', I did not say that was the only reason.

Sir F. E. James: My Honourable friend says that was the chief reason. Exactly how many Chief Petty Officers there are in the Royal Indian Navy?

Mr. O. M. Trivedi: I have not got the information. The point is that repurchases of any such step will be great in the Indian Air Force.

Sir F. E. James: May I suggest to the Honourable Member that he should consult the War Transport Member as to the extra amount of accommodation that would have to be made available if this very desirable change were made in the status of the Chief Petty Officer in the Royal Indian Navy?

Mr. O. M. Trivedi: The War Department is fully aware of the difficulties of the Honourable the War Transport Member.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: May I ask whether I understood the Honourable Member correctly when he said that the War Office is not in need of recruiting more officers in the Royal Indian Navy?

Mr. O. M. Trivedi: I do not know whether my Honourable friend refers to the War Office or to the War Department.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: It is very difficult to say. I mean the Fighting Forces.

Mr. O. M. Trivedi: It does not arise out of the question. But we are still in need of officers.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: If more officers are needed still, is it not desirable to raise the status of these persons whom they want to recruit?

(No reply was given.)

Sir F. E. James: Sir, may I press this question to the Honourable Member. I was indeed shocked at his reply. My Honourable friend suggested that the chief reason why the status of the Chief Petty Officer could not be raised to that of V C O is the lack of accommodation on the trains. Is my Honourable friend not aware that the difficulty of accommodation is far greater in the III class than in the Upper Classes of the Railways, and therefore the transfer of these officers might relieve the congestion in the lower classes?

(No reply was given.)

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) Next question.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh. With reference to part (iv).

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) Next question.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: Sir, I want to ask only one supplementary question.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) Order, order.

It has been fully discussed. Next question.

STATEMENT ON BRETTON WOODS MONETARY CONFERENCE.

79. **Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad:** (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member please lay a statement on the floor of the House on the proceedings of the Bretton Woods Monetary Conference?

(b) What was the view expressed by the Indian Delegation at this Conference?

(c) What are the findings of this Conference?

(d) If the Honourable Member is not willing to disclose the details, will he give a summary of the work done by the Indian Delegation?

(e) Will the Government give an opportunity to the House to express its views on the monetary policy before commitment of the Government of India? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a), (c) and (e) The results of the Bretton Woods Monetary Conference have been embodied in a document called the "Final Act" two copies of which have been placed in the Library of the House. An opportunity for full discussion of the subject will be afforded to the House in due course.

(b) and (d) The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the reply given by me to Question No. 72 asked today by Sardar Sant Singh.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: Will the Honourable the Finance Member give us an assurance that India will not be committed in any way before the recommendations are discussed in this House?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Yes, Sir.

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Salt: In his reply the Honourable Member has said 'An opportunity will be afforded to the House in due course'. Does he mean in this Session?

(No reply was given)

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: It may be during the next Session, that does not matter.

PAUCITY OF MUSLIM OFFICERS IN THE OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY ACCOUNTANT GENERAL, POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS, DELHI

80. *Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Salt (on behalf of Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon): (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state whether it is a fact that besides the Deputy Accountant General and one Assistant Accountant General, there are five Assistant Accounts Officers in the Office of the Deputy Accountant General, Posts and Telegraphs, Delhi?

(b) Is it also a fact that out of the above seven officers there are three Madrasis, one Bengalee and three local Hindus?

(c) Is it a fact that there is no Muslim officer in the above Office? If so, why not?

(d) Will Government be pleased to replace a Madras officer by a Muslim officer immediately?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) Yes.

(b) There are two Madrasas, four local Hindus and one Bengali.

(c) The answer is in the affirmative. Posting of officers to the offices of the Indian Audit Department is not done on a communal basis. In any event there is at present no Muslim officer who can suitably be appointed to that office.

(d) In view of the answer to part (c), this question does not arise.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai. May I know from the Honourable Member whether any suitable Mohammedan Officer has ever applied?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: As I am informed, there is at present no Muslim officer who can suitably be appointed and I presume no such officer has applied?

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: May I know whether recruitment to the Indian Audit Service is made on communal basis?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I said that the posting of officers to the offices of the Indian Audit Department is not done on a communal basis. I think in the recruitment of this, as in other services, the communal proportions are observed.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: Reference has been made to Madrasis in part

(b). What community do they belong to?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I was accepting the somewhat unsatisfactory classification which was put before me in the question.

IMPORTATION OF MADRASI CLERKS IN THE OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY ACCOUNTANT GENERAL, POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS, DELHI

81. *Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Salt (on behalf of Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon): (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state if it is a fact that the Subordinate Accounts Service cadre in all the Audit and Accounts Offices in India was localised in the year 1929.

(b) Is it a fact that the above scheme is being nullified so far as the office of the Deputy Accountant General, Posts and Telegraphs, Delhi, is concerned as in that office as many as four Subordinate Accounts Service passed clerks have been brought from Madras?

(c) Is it a fact that all these Madras Subordinate Accounts Service passed clerks have become senior to a number of local Subordinate Accounts Service passed clerks?

(d) Is it also a fact that one of the Madras Subordinate Accounts Service passed clerks, has also been confirmed out of turn over and above all the local Subordinate Accounts Service passed clerks who were waiting for confirmation in their cadre since a long time?

(e) As there is great heart burning and discontent in the above office on the importing of Madras passed clerks from Madras, do Government propose to issue necessary instructions to stop such immigration and also take steps to revert all such men who have not yet been confirmed in that cadre in this office to their parent office? If this is not possible, what are the reasons therefor?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Baisman: (a) The Posts and Telegraphs Subordinate Accounts Service Cadre was localised in 1933

(b) Four Madras clerks who had passed the Subordinate Accounts Service Examination were transferred from the office of the Accountant General, Posts and Telegraphs to officiate as Accountants in the Delhi Office on account of the paucity of passed clerks in the latter office. This was necessary on administrative grounds

(c) Three of the four Subordinate Accounts Service passed clerks just mentioned were treated as junior to all the Subordinate Accounts Service passed clerks in the Delhi office on the dates of their transfer. Only one of the men transferred was given his normal seniority according to the date of his passing the Subordinate Accounts Service Examination and placed above 2 locally-passed men on administrative grounds. One of the men has been confirmed out of turn as will be explained in part (d)

(d) The answer is in the affirmative. One of them has recently been confirmed out of turn in one of the vacancies in the Delhi Audit Office on account of his outstanding ability and comparative superiority. This has been done strictly in accordance with the rules on the subject

(e) According to the Departmental Rules, the immigration of passed clerks is not generally permissible and is resorted to only in the most exceptional circumstances. As the dearth of Subordinate Accounts Service passed clerks in the Delhi Office still continues the four men in question cannot in the public interest be repatriated

Mr. Lalchand Navalsai: The Honourable Member has referred to 'passed clerks'. May I know from him what examination they have passed? Have they passed the Federal Public Service Commission Examination?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Baisman: I am afraid that I am unable to answer any supplementaries on this question because I am barely able to understand what it is about myself

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) Next question

PROVISION OF QUARTERS FOR STAFF OF THE DEPUTY ACCOUNTANT GENERAL, POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS, DELHI

82. *Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Salt (on behalf of Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon): (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state if it is a fact that the staff of the Deputy Accountant General, - Posts and Telegraphs, Delhi has been declared eligible for Government quarters only from August 1943?

(b) Is it a fact that the above office has been located in Delhi from the year 1903? If so, why like other offices of the Central Government was this office not provided with Government quarters in spite of repeated representations from the staff either to provide Government quarters or to grant some house-rent in lieu thereof?

(c) Is it a fact that inspite of the eligibility of the staff of the above office, to get Government quarters, over 800 men have not yet been able to secure Government quarters for their residences? What are the reasons for not providing quarters to these men, and also what arrangements, if any, are the Government making to build quarters for them as well?

(d) Have Central Government employees in Audit and Account offices living outside Delhi and Simla also been provided with Government quarters? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Baisman: (a) Yes They have been made eligible for Government accommodation in the general pool in Delhi as from August, 1943

(b) The office in Delhi was opened in 1900 Its staff was not provided with Government quarters as they were declared to be "non-entitled" till August 1943

(c) Yes This is due to the very difficult housing situation in Delhi Government are trying to meet the abnormal situation as best as they can, and have in hand a building programme for about 5,000 staff quarters

(d) Yes, to a limited extent at Ranchi and Peshawar and in certain Railway Colonies Government do not consider it to be either necessary or feasible to embark on a programme of construction to house all this staff throughout India

(b) WRITTEN ANSWERS

INADEQUACY OF THE DELHI COMPENSATORY HOUSE RENT ALLOWANCE

83. *Seth Yusuf Abdoolo Haroon: (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state if it is a fact that the Government of India, Finance Department, in their Letter No 44(9)W-44, dated the 21st July, 1944 have been pleased to grant a compensatory house-rent allowance equal to the excess of the monthly rent paid by the Government servants over 10 per cent of their monthly pay to all those who could not so far secure Government quarters?

(b) Do the Government consider that the grant of this little concession will secure for these employees well ventilated commodious houses in healthy localities like the Government quarters? If not, do Government propose to construct immediately Government quarters for these employees as well, or grant in lieu thereof a flat rate of Rs 20, Rs 30 and Rs 50 to all those getting pay upto Rs 100 per month, from above Rs 100 to Rs 200 per month and from above Rs 200 to Rs 500 per month respectively? If not, why not?

(c) Why has the above compensatory house-rent allowance not been extended to all Central Government employees working in Audit and Account offices in India except Delhi?

(d) Since the shortage of residential houses is acutely felt in all the Provincial Capitals in India, is it proposed that this allowance should forthwith be extended to them also? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Baisman: (a) Yes, but the allowance is admissible only to those non-gazetted ministerial servants of the Central Government in Delhi who draw pay up to Rs- 500 p m and fail to get Government quarters The allowance is equal to the excess of the monthly rent actually paid by the Government servant over 10 per cent of his monthly pay but subject to a maximum of 10 per cent of monthly pay

(b) The reply to the first part is in the affirmative, in so far as the present congestion in Delhi permits The second part of the question does not arise, but I may mention that a further large building programme has recently been undertaken in Delhi which includes some 5,000 extra staff quarters In the mean time, in view of the fact that rents are controlled, the existing allowance is considered adequate

(c) and (d) The allowance has since been extended to non-gazetted ministerial servants of the Central Government in Calcutta and Bombay and their suburbs, including those working in Audit and Accounts Offices No general or uniform scale for Central Government servants throughout India would be justified as conditions vary from place to place

STEPS FOR STABILIZATION OF PURCHASING POWER OF RUPEE

84. *Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state what steps he has taken since the last Session of the Assembly to stabilize the purchasing power of a rupee?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman. This question is identical in substance with question No 67 asked by the Honourable Member today, to which I have already replied

PROGRAMME FOR POST-WAR PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

85. *Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: Will the Honourable Member for Planning and Development please state

(a) the different schemes and programme for post-war planning and development,

(b) the names of departments under which particular schemes of planning and post-war development have been or proposed to be sanctioned and the details of the development together with strength of staff,

(c) the strength of the organisation to carry out planning and development schemes at the Headquarters and in different places or provinces as the case may be,

(d) the strength of his Secretariat, i.e., the number of

- (1) Secretaries,
- (2) Joint Secretaries,
- (3) Deputy Secretaries,
- (4) Assistant Secretaries,
- (5) Superintendents, and

their salaries and qualifications and the number of Muslims under each category,

(e) whether the various posts under (d) were advertised? If so, when and in what ways?

(f) whether any Selection Board was appointed or Federal Public Service Commission was asked to select personnel under each category? If not, who appointed the officers under each category? In case any Selection Board was appointed, what was its personnel,

(g) the progress of schemes already taken in hand,

(h) whether schemes of post-war planning and development have been sanctioned by the Standing Finance Committee or the Assembly?

The Honourable Sir Ardesbir Dalal: (a) and (g) I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to the reports on several subjects of post-war development which have been published by Government from time to time and copies of which are available in the Library and also to the Second Report* on Reconstruction Planning, a copy of which was laid on the table of the House this morning in answer to question No 62

(b) Each scheme is prepared by the Department of Government concerned with the Planning and Development Department acting as the Co-ordinating Department

The Honourable Member will observe from the Second Report that the Government of India have not yet got to the stage of considering the strength of staff for executing development plans

(c) I am collecting the information and will lay it on the table of the House in due course

(d) I lay a statement on the table of the House

(e) and (f) The posts were filled in the normal way by promotions and transfers of suitable officers already in service and there was no occasion to appoint a Selection Board or to consult the Public Service Commission

(h) The schemes have not yet reached the stage of being placed for sanction before the Standing Finance Committee or the Assembly

*Not printed in these debates, but copies have been placed in the library of the House.—
Ed of D

Designation of Officer	Salary	Qualifications	Remarks
	Rs		
Secretary	4,000	Mily Officer, Lt Genl, British Service	} The Addl Deputy Secretary is a Muslim and the others are non-Muslims
Joint Secretary	3,000	} Belong to the Indian Civil Service	
Deputy Secretary	2,000		
Additional Deputy Secretary	1,900	} B A, Belongs to the Imperial Soclt Service, Class II, has put in over 17 years' service	
Assistant Secretaries (2)	1,000		
	1,050	Non graduate, is a permanent Superintendent in the Legalslative Deptt, C P Govt, has put in over 20 years' service	
Superintendents (2)	600	B A (Hons), has put in over 15 years' service	
	600	B A, has put in over 17 years' service	

ECONOMIC AND INDUSTRIAL BACKWARDNESS OF MUSLIM NATION IN INDIA

86. ***Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Planning and Development please state whether his attention has ever been drawn to the economic and industrial backwardness of Muslim Nation in the country?

(b) What steps has he taken or proposes to take to remove the said backwardness?

(c) Has he appointed or does he propose to appoint an adviser to help him in removing the said backwardness?

The Honourable Sir Ardesahr Dalal (a) No statistical investigation has been made of the economic condition of the people by communities, but it is generally accepted that Muslims are economically more backward than some others

(b) and (c) I invite the Honourable Member's attention to Government's Second Report on Reconstruction Planning which has recently been issued. As explained therein, the ultimate object of all planning is to raise the standard of living of the people as a whole. The ultimate effect of planned development will be to benefit the backward classes to a comparatively larger extent than the more advanced classes.

GOVERNMENT HANDWRITING EXPERTS IN PROVINCES

87. ***Mr. G. Rangiah Naidu**: (a) Will the Honourable the Home Member please state whether any Provincial Government maintains whole-time or consulting handwriting experts? If so, what are the Provinces?

(b) Was any order issued by the Government of India to the Provincial Government, in pursuance of the answer given by the Government of India to question No 351 in the February 1930 Session of the Assembly? If not, do the Government of India propose to issue such Orders immediately?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) I understand that some Provinces do employ official handwriting experts, but I have no complete information.

(b) The answer to question No 351 of 1930 did not suggest or promise the issue of any orders, none were therefore issued and the Government of India do not propose to issue any now.

CONSIDERATION OF INDIA'S STERLING BALANCES AT THE BRETTON WOODS MONETARY CONFERENCE

88. ***Mr. K. C. Neogy**: (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state if it has been brought to his notice that Mr. Shinwell raised a question in the House of Commons on the 6th July, 1944, enquiring of the Secretary of State for India as to the authority under which the subject of India's sterling balances was raised at the International Monetary Conference?

(b) Was there any definite commitment by the Government of India with His Majesty's Government with regard to the raising of this question at Bretton Woods Conference and had the Government of India at any time agreed to the exclusion of the consideration of this question from the agenda of the Conference?

(c) Were any instructions issued by the Government of India to their representatives at the preliminary Conference at expert level? If so, what was the nature of such instructions?

(d) Is it a fact that the Government of India's representative experts at the preliminary Conference did not raise the question regarding the inclusion of the subject of India's sterling balances within the purview of the International Monetary Conference?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Baisman: (a) Yes

(b) The answer to both parts of this question is in the negative

(c) and (d) I am not sure to what stage of the proceedings the Honourable Member is referring, but I can say that it is not a fact that the Government of India's representatives at any stage agreed not to raise this question

IMPORT OF SILVER FROM IRAN

89. *Mr. K. C. Neogy: Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of India have arranged to import 500 tons of silver from Iran through an arrangement with the Iran National Bank,

(b) whether it is a fact that the import of this silver has been financed by the British and United States of America Governments whereby the British and the United States of America Governments have offered gold to Persia in exchange for the silver released for India,

(c) the conditions on which this silver has been imported by the Government of India, and

(d) whether the Government of India have paid for these imports in sterling, if so, at what rate this silver has been paid for, or whether the profit margin between the price at which the silver has been acquired and the price at which it has been offered in the Indian market is accruing to the Iran National Bank, or the British or United States of America Governments or to the Government of India or the Reserve Bank of India?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Baisman: (a) Yes

(b) The transaction was a straightforward purchase on the part of the Government of India

(c) Import was made by outright purchase by the Government of India. I regret that I am not prepared to furnish any further details

(d) Payment for the silver was made in rupees. The remaining portions of the question do not therefore arise

IMPORT OF SILVER UNDER LEASE-LEND

90. *Mr. K. C. Neogy: Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of India have arranged to import about 100 million ounces of silver under Lease-Lend,

(b) whether the Government of India have undertaken to repay ounce per ounce the silver so acquired from the United States of America,

(c) whether the silver so acquired is meant purely for finance purposes or for sale in the Indian market, and

(d) at what price this silver has been accounted for in the Lease-Lend accounts of the United States of America so as to debit the value of silver imported into India, and at what price this silver will be sold in the Indian market?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Baisman: (a), (b) and (c) The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the Press Communiqués dated the 15th June and 11th July, issued on this subject

(d) The question of accounting for the price of the silver does not arise as no payment is to be made and the silver itself is to be returned ounce for ounce. As regards the last part of part (d) I regret that I am unable to supply any information.

FINANCIAL BURDEN ON INDIA DUE TO INCREASE IN EMOLUMENTS FOR BRITISH TROOPS SERVING IN THE EAST

91. *Mr. K. C. Neogy: Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state

(a) what additional burden would be thrown on Indian exchequer as a result of increases in the emoluments allowed to British troops serving in the East in the recent past,

(b) whether the aforesaid increases in emoluments would be governed by the terms of the agreement between His Majesty's Government and the Government of India regarding the allocation of Defence expenditure, and

(c) what effect this additional obligation of the Indian exchequer is likely to have on the sterling balance to the credit of India in England?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: The matter is under consideration in consultation with His Majesty's Government.

FINANCIAL BURDEN ON INDIA DUE TO INCREASE IN EMOLUMENTS FOR BRITISH TROOPS SERVING IN THE EAST

92. *Mr. K. C. Neogy: Will the War Secretary be pleased to state

(a) what increases in the emoluments in the recent past have been sanctioned for the British troops serving in the East,

(b) to what extent these increased emoluments will constitute a charge on Indian revenues,

(c) the difference between the emoluments of a British soldier serving in India and of an Indian soldier, and

(d) with what objects the forthcoming visit of the Earl of Munster is being undertaken, and in what manner his visit is likely to affect the revenues of India by way of further increased charges on account of British soldiers stationed in India and in the East?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi. (a) A copy of the White Paper issued by His Majesty's Government on the subject is placed on the table.

(b) The matter is under consideration in consultation with His Majesty's Government.

(c) A statement comparing the emoluments of typical ranks of British and Indian soldiers is placed on the table.

(d) The Earl of Munster is investigating the arrangements for the welfare, entertainment and amenities in general for the armed forces. I am unable to anticipate the results of his mission.

White Paper

Additional Financial Benefits for members of the Forces with prolonged service during the present war and in respect of service in the Far East

1. His Majesty's Government consider that with the increases in the pay and allowances of members of the Forces and their families announced in the White Paper (Command 6621) of April, 1944, the general provision made for serving personnel was brought up to a satisfactory level. Recently, however, they have been giving consideration to the position of those members of the Forces who have already rendered prolonged service during the present war, and of those who will undertake service in the Far East. The war against the Axis Powers will be one continuous effort until the last of the enemies is defeated, and many men will be required to continue their service either in Europe or in the war against Japan. His Majesty's Government have accordingly decided to introduce, as a war measure, a scheme of special financial benefits in respect of prolonged service during the present war and also in respect of service in the Far Eastern theatre of war.

These benefits, which will not be taken into account for the purpose of contributory or qualifying allotments for Family or Dependents' Allowance, fall into two parts—

(i) Increments of pay, known as War Service Increments for officers and men of the Royal Navy, Army and R. A. F. in receipt of British or British Indian rates of pay, who have given a considerable period of service during the present war.

(u) Additional pay, to be known as Japanese Campaign Pay, for those officers and men who served in the Far Eastern theatre

2 *War Service Increments*—These increments will be given to all ratings, and other ranks and to all officers below the rank of Rear Admiral, Major General, or Air Vice Marshal, who have completed, or who subsequently complete, three years' service from and including the 3rd September, 1939. They will take effect from the 3rd September, 1944, and will be at the following rates—

7s a week for ratings below Petty Officer and other ranks below Sergeant, after completion of three years' war service, with an additional 3s 6d a week for each subsequent year's war service

10s 6d a week for Petty Officers and Chief Petty Officers, Royal Navy, Sergeants and higher N C Os and Warrant Officers of the Army and R A F after three years' war service, with an additional 3s 6d a week for each subsequent year's war service

15s 9d a week for officers below Lieutenant Commander, Major and Squadron Leader, after three years' war service, with an additional 5s 3d a week for each subsequent year's war service

21s a week for Lieutenant Commanders, Majors and Squadron Leaders and above (but not officers of or above the rank of Rear Admiral, Major General or Air Vice Marshal) after three years' war service, with an additional 7s a week for each subsequent year's war service

Women members of the Forces will receive these increments at two-thirds of the appropriate men's rates

3 *Japanese Campaign Pay*—Officers and men of the Royal Navy, the Army and the R A F serving in the Far East, and in receipt of pay under the British Pay Code, will be granted Japanese Campaign Pay at the following weekly rates, with effect from the 1st November, 1944—

	s	d
Men below Leading Rating and Corporal	7	0
Leading Ratings and Corporals	8	9
Petty Officers and Sergeants	10	6
Chief Petty Officers, Staff and Flight Sergeants	12	3
Warrant Officers, Class I and Class II	14	0
Officers up to and including Lieutenant, Royal Navy, Captain and Flight Lieutenant	21	0
Lieutenant-Commanders, Majors and Squadron Leaders	35	0
Commanders, Lieutenant-Colonels and Wing Commanders	49	6
Captains, Royal Navy, Colonels and Brigadiers, Group Captains and Air Commodores	63	0
Flag Officers, General Officers and Air Vice Marshals and above	77	0

Japanese Campaign Pay will be payable irrespective of the period of service rendered, and will be in addition to any War Service Increments admissible under paragraph 2 above

4 Japanese Campaign Pay at the rates shown above will also be granted to men below commissioned rank and to officers up to and including the rank of Captain and Flight Lieutenant in receipt of pay under the Indian Pay Code. It will not be paid to officers of the rank of Major and Squadron Leader and above in receipt of pay under the Indian Pay Code, in view of the substantial advantages which they receive under that Code

5 Women members of the Forces will receive Japanese Campaign Pay at two-thirds of the appropriate men's rates

6 *Far East Allowance*—It has also been decided to introduce, with effect from 1st November, 1944, for all officers and men of the Army and R A F serving in the Far East, who are in receipt of pay under the British Pay Code, a tax free allowance to take the place of Field and Colonial Allowance. This allowance will be known as Far East Allowance and will be at the rates shown below. Far East Allowance will also be granted to officers and men of the Royal Navy serving ashore in the Far East, except where provision for the grant of a Naval Colonial Allowance is already in existence.

	Weekly
s.	d.
Ranks below Petty Officer and Sergeant	2 4
Petty Officers and Sergeants	3 6
Chief Petty Officers, Staff and Flight Sergeants	4 1
Warrant Officers, Class II	5 10
Warrant Officers, Class I	9 4
All Officers	21 0

7 Women members of the Forces will be granted Far East Allowance at the same rates as men

8 The effect of these additional benefits, including Far East Allowance where drawn, is shown in the following typical examples (Army rates are quoted for simplicity):—

Total weekly cash receipts of officers and men and their families. The rates quoted refer to officers and men paid under the British Pay Code

	Unmarried						Married, wife and 2 children					
	Present			Future			Present			Future		
	At home	At home	Far East	At home	Far East		At home	At home	Far East	At home	Far East	
	£	s	d	£	s	d	£	s	d	£	s	d
Private, Cl I, 3 yrs war service	1	13	3	2	0	3	2	9	7	4	4	6
Private Cl I, 6 yrs war service	1	13	3	2	7	3	2	16	7	4	4	6
Sergt., 3 yrs war service	2	9	0	2	19	6	3	13	6	4	18	0
Sergt., 5 yrs war service	2	12	6	3	10	0	4	4	0	5	1	6
Lt., 3 yrs war service	4	11	0	5	6	9	7	8	9	8	4	6
Lt., 5 yrs war service	5	1	6	6	7	9	8	9	9	8	15	0
Capt., 3 yrs war service	5	15	6	6	11	3	8	13	3	9	2	0
Capt., 5 yrs war service	5	15	6	7	1	9	9	3	9	9	2	0
Major 3 yrs war service	9	19	6	11	0	6	13	16	6	12	15	6
Major 5 yrs war service	9	19	6	11	14	6	14	10	6	12	15	6

In the above table no account is taken of items provided in kind or allowances granted in lieu thereof

9 In the assessment of War Service Grants, the War Service Increments and Japanese Campaign Pay now approved will be taken into consideration broadly on the present basis, and any necessary adjustments in existing awards will be made as and when individual cases are reviewed

10 The cost of the above increases is estimated to be not less than £100 million a year

Statement comparing the emoluments of British and Indian soldiers of the non tradesmen classes

British Other Ranks serving in India (see out side their own country)			Indian soldiers serving outside India		
Rank	Emoluments per mensem *		Rank	Emoluments per mensem †	
	Rs.	As. P.		Rs.	As. P.
Privates—			Privates—		
Private (after 3 years' service)	119	12 0	Sepoy (after 3 years' service)	44	8 0
Non-commissioned officers—			Non-commissioned officers—		
Corporal	142	9 0	Naik	56	0 0
Sergeant	171	1 0	Havildar	63	0 0
Warrant Officers—			No comparable ranks in the Indian Army Viceroy's commissioned officers—		
Class II (Sub Conductor)	252	5 0			
Class I (Conductor)	307	15 0			
No comparable ranks in the British Army					
			Jemadar	108—5—133	
			Subedar	183—10—223	

* Includes proficiency pay and post war credits into account

This is admissible to married British Other Ranks at the following rates —

	Rs.
For wife	30
For wife + 1 child	86
For wife + 2 children	136
For wife + 3 children	181
Each additional child	45

† Includes Proficiency Pay, Deferred Pay, Batta and Expatriation Allowance

DETENUS RELEASED, ETC.

93. *Mr. K. C. Neogy: Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state

(a) the total number of detenues who have been released as a result of the six-monthly reviews provided for in the Detention Ordinance;

(b) in how many such cases restrictive orders have been issued or re-arrest and detention effected again,

(c) the total number of detenus now in detention in each province, and whether the process of review has been applied to all these cases, and

(d) whether it is a fact that in some cases detenus who were furnished with the grounds for their detention were refused facilities for securing legal assistance for the preparation of their defence?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) and (b) I have no detailed information in respect of persons detained under the orders of Provincial Governments but as stated in my reply to Question No 68, 5,068 persons have been released since the beginning of this year. As regards those detained under the orders or at the instance of the Central Government and the Chief Commissioners the number released between January 1st and October 15th was 57. None of these has been re-arrested or re-detained. The movements of some of them have been restricted. Accurate information is not available as to the number of such persons, but it is between 25 and 30.

(c) I lay on the table a statement showing the position on 1st September, 1944. Later figures are not yet available. It must be remembered that the figures include a large number of persons who have been detained for reasons other than political. The process of review is applied in all Provinces in cases where detention is under Ordinance No III of 1944. This is clearly laid down in section 9 of the Ordinance.

(d) The Honourable Member is referred to my reply to question No 70.

Statement showing the number of persons undergoing detention on 1st September, 1944

Madras	315
Bombay	343
Bengal	1,281
United Provinces	722
Punjab	107
Bihar	324
Central Provinces and Berar	136
Assam	165
North-West Frontier Province	61
Orissa	137
Sind	1,656
Coorg	
Delhi	21
Ajmer Merwara	7
Baluchistan	
Total	5,265

UNSATISFACTORY WORKING OF THE CONTROL ON CAPITAL ISSUE

94. *Mr. R. E. Gupta: (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state how long it is the intention of the Government of India to maintain the present control on capital issue?

(b) Is the Honourable Member aware that great disaffection prevails as to the manner in which consent of the Government is given to some applicants and refused to others? If so, will the Honourable Member indicate the present policy which is being pursued in the disposal of applications for capital issue, and lay on the table a statement of the number of cases in which consent was granted and of those in which consent was refused?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) It is impossible to foresee precisely when the conditions which necessitated the establishment of control over capital issues will disappear.

(b) The reply to the first part of the question is in the negative. The present policy is indicated in the Press Notes of June 21st, 1943, July 10th, 1943, April 28th, 1944, and July 28th, 1944, copies of which are in the Library of the House. The total numbers of cases in which consent had been given and refused up till the 24th October, 1944, are consents, 2,785, refusals, 787.

UNSATISFACTORY WORKING OF THE CONTROL ON CAPITAL ISSUE.

95. *Mr. R. E. Gupta: (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state whether consent is refused under the present control of capital issues, to register private limited companies also?

(b) If the answer to (a) above is in the affirmative, on what ground is such consent withheld?

(c) Is there any other criterion by which applications are judged than that specified in the objects of the Ordinance under reference?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Baisman: (a) Consent for the issue of capital by private limited companies (not for their registration) is necessary and may be refused.

(b) Generally speaking, for reasons referred to in the Press Notes quoted in my reply to the Honourable Member's question No 94.

(c) Control is exercised not under an Ordinance but under a Rule made under Defence of India Act. The criteria applied are those referred to in section 2(1) of that Act.

INDIA'S STERLING BALANCES.

96. *Mr. R. E. Gupta: Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state the latest amount of India's sterling balance, and what amount thereof is at present held in the Post-war Reconstruction Fund? Are there other proposals pending at the moment for the utilisation of the balance, and, if so, what are they?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Baisman: The sterling balances stood on the 13th October 1944 at Rs 1,149 crores. The entire amount is held in the Issue and Banking Departments of the Reserve Bank of India and no portion is separately held in a Post-War Reconstruction Fund. The question of the utilisation of these balances will, it is expected, form the subject of discussion between the Government of India and of the United Kingdom.

PROPAGANDA BY MEMBERS OF THE VICEROY'S COUNCIL

97. *Mr. K. S. Gupta: (a) Will the Honourable the Home Member please state if it is not a fact that the members of the Viceroy's Council tour about India at the public expense?

(b) Are they allowed to carry on propaganda—personal and party?

(c) Are the Government of India aware that Dr Ambedkar carried on propaganda for the Scheduled Caste Federation?

(d) Is it not a fact that Dr Ambedkar started the propaganda that scheduled castes form a separate nation? If the answer is in the positive, is it the collective and considered opinion of the Government of India?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: The question should have been addressed to the Honourable the Leader of the House.

ATTACK BY WAR TECHNICIANS ON CITIZENS OF RAJAMPET

98. *Mr. K. S. Gupta: (a) Will the Honourable the Defence Member please state if it is not a fact that several peaceful citizens of Rajampet lost their lives and limbs as the result of an attack by War Technicians?

(b) How many lost their lives and limbs?—Is there any compensation paid to the sufferers?

(c) What is the action taken by the Government against the culprits?

(d) Is there any police prosecution launched against any of the inmates of the War Technicians Institute Hostel? If so, what is the result?

(e) What are the precautions taken by the Government of India to prevent such untoward incidents there and elsewhere?

(f) Is it not a fact that the citizens were conducting a peaceful procession when the War Technicians in their uniforms and armed with sticks fell on the processionists?

Mr. O. M. Trivedi: (a) and (f) Yes, Sir, an incident did take place. It was in the nature of a riot between members of the Mala caste, who were framees at the Civil Centre, Rajampet, and members of the Boys and related castes, who had performed a certain dance accompanied by Chindu

music, considered provocative and insulting to the Mala caste. There is, however, no report to the effect that sticks were used. I would add that the music was played in defiance of a local order prohibiting music without previous notice to the civil authorities.

(b) One Boya resident of Rajampet was killed and another was injured. One trainee also was injured. As regards compensation, the matter is under correspondence.

(c) and (d) Of the three culprits tried by the Sessions Judge, Cuddapah, one was sentenced to death for murder, the second to twelve months' rigorous imprisonment, while the third was acquitted.

(e) All military personnel are under orders to take special care that none of their acts violate religious customs and prejudices.

ACTION ON DISCUSSIONS AT THE TOBACCO CONFERENCE HELD AT CALCUTTA

99. *Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta: (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state what decisions have been taken and what orders have been passed on the matters discussed at the Tobacco Conference held at Calcutta on the 26th and 27th June, 1944?

(b) Does the Honourable Member propose to consider the advisability of publishing or informing the All-India Biri and Tobacco Merchants' Federation what changes have been introduced either in the letter or spirit of the Central Excise Rules relating to tobacco and in the working of the system, in the light of the discussions at the Tobacco Conference for the guidance of dealers in tobacco?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman. (a) The various proposals put forward at the Conference were carefully studied by the Central Excise Department. Some of these matters entailed detailed investigation but except in two instances, where orders will shortly be issued, appropriate orders have been passed and a resumé of the action taken has been sent to the All-India Biri and Tobacco Merchants' Federation.

(b) The Federation have been informed of the action taken.

PRINTING PRESSES CONFISCATED AND NEWSPAPERS SUPPRESSED

100. *Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state

(a) the number of printing presses confiscated and locked up by police and national newspapers suppressed by the Central and Provincial Governments throughout India during the so-called 'rebellion' of 1942,

(b) how many newspapers have not been given permission to restart, and

(c) how many printing presses have been released since then, and how many are still locked up?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: The answer so far as the Central Government and Chief Commissioners' Provinces are concerned is

(a) One printing press was confiscated and locked up by the police in January, 1943. No newspapers were suppressed.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The one press referred to in part (a) was released in October 1943. None is still locked up.

GRIEVANCES OF DELHI DETENTUS

101. *Sardar Mangal Singh: Will the Honourable the Home Member please state

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the grievances of the Delhi detenus as published in an A.P.I. report which appeared in the Tribune, dated the 16th July, 1944, in the form of an interview given by Mr. Ram Lal Verma, Editor, the daily Tej, Delhi, on his release from detention,

(b) whether the Government have looked into the allegations made therein particularly about the medical arrangements at the Ferozepur Camp Jail Hospital and about the facts that there are frequent complaints regarding the inadequacy of necessary medicines and the indifferent attitude of the Medical Officer;

(c) if it is a fact that the Camp Jail is situated at a very low level, and there being no proper drainage system, malaria is rampant in the rainy season, as the camp becomes a vast breeding ground for mosquitoes,

(d) if it is a fact that there are no bathrooms, and the detenus have to take their bath in the open even in winter, and

(e) that the common latrine ensures no privacy and is quite insanitary?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: Government have seen the report referred. The administration of jails is a provincial matter.

NON-SUPPLY OF DELHI NEWSPAPERS TO DELHI DETENUS AT FEROZEPUR

102. *Sardar Mangal Singh: Will the Honourable the Home Member please state as to why no Delhi newspapers except the *Statesman* are allowed to the Delhi detenus at Ferozepur when there is no bar to such papers being supplied to them while they remain in the Delhi District Jail?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: The newspapers allowed to persons detained in the Ferozepur Jail is a matter for the Punjab Government and the conditions of detention there are regulated by the Punjab Security Prisoners Rules, 1944.

RECENT RESTRICTIONS ON LETTERS OF DELHI DETENUS IN THE PUNJAB

103. *Sardar Mangal Singh: (a) Will the Honourable the Home Member please state whether any protest has been lodged by the Delhi detenus against the restrictions recently imposed on the writing of letters, according to which a letter has to be confined to 20 lines of a prescribed printed form, and all the names occurring in the course of the letter irrespective of their context have to be properly annotated?

(b) Do Government propose to withdraw the new restrictions which have not been imposed anywhere except the Punjab?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) No such protest has been received by the Central Government.

(b) No.

DESIRABILITY OF TRANSFERRING DELHI DETENUS TO DELHI DISTRICT JAIL

104. *Sardar Mangal Singh: (a) Will the Honourable the Home Member please state whether it is a fact that the number of the Delhi detenus now lodged in the Ferozepur Camp Jail has fallen below twenty? If so, why can they not be accommodated in the Delhi District Jail?

(b) In view of the fact that the relatives of the detenus who are mostly females, have to suffer great hardships while travelling in crowded trains and also because of their pecuniary difficulties, most of them are not able to avail of their rights to interview twice a month, do Government propose to consider the desirability of transferring the Delhi detenus to the Delhi District Jail?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) and (b) The number of Delhi detenus now lodged in the Ferozepur Camp Jail is about twenty. As regards the possibility of accommodating them in the Delhi District Jail the attention of the Honourable Member is drawn to the answer to his question No. 831 on March 7th, 1944.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

BROADCASTING LICENCES.

23. Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Will the Honourable Member for Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state

(a) the total number of broadcasting licences on August 1, 1944,

(b) the total number of such licences in (i) Bombay Presidency, (ii) Bihar, (iii) North Western Frontier Province, (iv) Punjab, and (v) Sind including Khairpur State, and

(c) the normal range of medium wave radio stations of Lahore, Peshawar, Lucknow, and Trichinopoly during mid-day, and the number of Broadcasting licence-holders which each such station serves?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: (a) 1,87,171

(b) (i) 43,283, (ii) 1,059, (iii) 6,514, (iv) 26,756, and (v) 4,252 (excluding Khairpur and other Indian States. Radio receiving sets in Indian States are licensed by the respective State authorities and the Government of India have no information in regard to these sets)

(c) The range of broadcasting stations varies with the different seasons of the year. Roughly speaking, the reliable range of the 5 k w in w Stations at Lahore, Lucknow and Trichinopoly during mid-day may be said to be 50 miles. Peshawar with a 10 k w medium wave transmitter can be heard upto a distance of 80 miles. It is not possible to give figures of license holders residing within the reliable range of the respective transmitters.

PURCHASE OF VEGETABLES, DAIRY PRODUCTS, ETC FOR FIGHTING FORCES STATIONED IN BENGAL

24 Mr K. C. Neogy: (a) Will the War Secretary be pleased to refer to my starred question No 292 of the 18th November, 1943, and the reply given by him thereto, and state whether the following conditions, namely, (i) the system of purchase, (ii) the methods of control over prices, (iii) consultation with the civil authorities in regard to local stocks and the prices to be paid, and (iv) making the army to a large extent self-supporting as regards potatoes and fresh vegetables, indicated by him, have applied all along equally to the fighting forces of various nationalities stationed in Bengal? If so, who were the exceptions, and for what reasons?

(b) What has been the average cost of the purchases of vegetables, dairy products, fish, eggs, poultry and meat, made locally for the armed forces of all nationalities stationed in Bengal during the past few months for which statistics may be available?

(c) Will the Honourable Member be pleased to place on the table any statement made by any Audit Officer or other responsible officials, indicating the nature of control exercised in the matter of local purchases of various foodstuffs indicated above, as promised by him in reply to my question referred to in (a) above?

(d) Will the Honourable Member be pleased to make enquiries in respect of each district of Bengal and state whether special local purchase officer, referred to by him in his reply to my above-mentioned question, did actually consult the civil authorities in regard to local purchases of vegetables and dairy products and the prices to be paid therefor, and, if so, in which months of 1943 and 1944 did these consultations take place in the case of each district, and with what result?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: (a) Yes, Sir, the conditions enumerated by the Honourable Member have applied all along to the fighting forces of all nationalities in Bengal, with one exception in respect of certain fresh supplies purchased by or for U S A Forces prior to the introduction of the present arrangements. Until about August 1943, the U S A Authorities were making their own arrangements for the purchase of fresh supplies and fixed their own rates. The reason for this procedure was that their scale of rations and specifications differed from those laid down for British Troops. In August 1943, however, an agreement was reached whereby the American authorities agreed to accept fresh supplies, with certain exceptions, under normal R I A S C contract arrangements. In the case of the exceptions, the chief of which were fruit and vegetables, owing to a wide divergence between American and British specifications, it was agreed that the American authorities should be allowed to make separate contracts subject to prior approval of rates and conditions by the General Headquarters (India). Since the 1st of October, 1944, however, all fresh supplies for the U S A Forces in Bengal are being provided under normal army contracts.

(b) I regret that information for the past few months is not available, but the average contract rates for 1943-44 were as follows:—

Articles	Per	Rates	
		Rs	a. p.
Mutton	10 lbs.	70	0 0
Beef	100 lbs.	35	0 0
Potatoes	100 lbs.	19	0 0
Onions	100 lbs.	15	0 0
Vegetables, fresh	100 lbs.	24	0 0
Eggs	100 Nos.	10	0 0
Chickens	lb	1	4 0
Fresh Milk	lb	0	5 0
Butter	lb	2	4 0

(c) No such statement appears to have been made but the procedure followed is that contracts for local purchase are sanctioned by authorities of ranks commensurate with the amounts involved and that except in cases of a minor nature specified prior concurrence of financial authorities is obtained. Since February 1944, all Local Purchase of foodstuffs for Defence Services is being co-ordinated and controlled by Command Co-ordination Committees which consist of representatives of the Command, the Food Department and the Provincial Government and which have sub-committees constituted on similar lines at each military station or convenient group of stations in the Command.

(d) It is normal army procedure, observed invariably, to consult the civil authorities in regard to prices before making any contract. I regret, however, that detailed information regarding these consultations is not available as no record of them is kept.

POSITION RE DOLLARS AND DOLLAR SECURITIES

25. **Mr. K. O. Neogy.** Will the Honourable the Finance Member please make a statement indicating—

(a) the total amount of dollars and dollar securities requisitioned by the Government of India at the outbreak of War under the Dollar Requisitioning Order,

(b) the amount of trade balance between India and the United States of America from the outbreak of war to the present day, year by year;

(c) the accretion of dollars to this country as a result of expenditure undertaken by American forces in India and other United States of America expenditure in this country, and

(d) the total amount of dollars contributed by this country to the Empire Dollar Pool?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman (a) and (c) I regret that I cannot give this information as its publication would be contrary to the public interest.

(b) The balance of trade in merchandise between India and the United States of America are shown in the accounts relating to the Sea-borne Trade and Navigation of British India which are published every month.

(d) Accurate information is not available and in any case could not be published without detriment to public interest.

DOLLARS AVAILABLE IN THE EMPIRE DOLLAR POOL

26. **Mr. K. O. Neogy:** Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state

(a) the amount of dollars available at present in the Empire Dollar Pool; and

(b) the amount of dollars that were available in the Empire Dollar Pool in the years 1941, 1942 and 1943, separately?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: The Government of India are not in possession of information asked for.

UTILIZATION OF DOLLARS IN THE EMPIRE DOLLAR POOL

27. **Mr. K. O. Neogy:** (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state whether the Government of India possess exact information as to how these dollars in the Empire Dollar Pool are used?

(b) What is the total amount of dollars made available from the Empire Dollar Pool to India, United Kingdom and other Empire countries, separately, in the years 1941, 1942, 1943 and 1944?

(c) Has any portion of the dollars in the Empire Dollar Pool been utilised or earmarked for redeeming dollar securities which have been pledged by the United Kingdom Government with the Reconstruction Finance Corporation under the agreement between the United Kingdom and this Corporation in 1941, whereby the United Kingdom secured a loan of 425 million dollars?

(d) Has any portion of these dollars been utilised by the United Kingdom for imports from the United States of America on private account?

(e) If the answer to (d) be in the affirmative, what is the amount of dollars so utilised, and did such imports consist of capital or consumers goods?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Baisman. (a) The dollars in the common Empire Pool are used for meeting Essential import requirements of the sterling area countries

(b) to (e) The Government of India have no information

DETENTION UNDER DEFENCE OF INDIA RULES OF STAFF ON SHAHDARA (DELHI) SABARANPUR LIGHT RAILWAY

28. Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali: (a) Will the Honourable the Home Member please state if it is a fact that a large number of the staff on the Shahdara (Delhi) Sabaranpur Light Railway has been detained under the Defence of India Act Rules in the District Jail at Meerut since November, 1943, without trial? If so, (i) when are they to be produced before a Court to stand their trial, (ii) what are the reasons for not completing the investigations of the offences under the Defence of India Act Rules within a period of one year?

(b) Did the Government of India refuse their trial by the Special Tribunal, War Department?

Mr. G. M. Trivedi: (a) This is the concern of the Provincial Government I regret I have no information on the subject

(b) No, Sir

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION AND ANSWER

REMOVAL OF LARGE NUMBER OF TELEPHONES FROM SUBSCRIBERS

Sir F. E. James. Will the Secretary for Posts and Air please state

(a) how many telephones in New Delhi have been removed in pursuance of 12 Noon the warning issued by the Department of Posts and Air during October,

(b) how many of these telephones are being installed in the houses and private rooms of Members of the Central Legislature for the current session,

(c) the reason for the removal of a large number of telephones from subscribers of long standing in New Delhi,

(d) if one of the reasons is the necessity of supplying private telephones to a large number of Members of the Central Legislature for the duration of the Session, whether these telephones will be restored to permanent subscribers at the end of the Session,

(e) when the new plant is expected, and

(f) when the new plant arrives, whether those permanent subscribers whose telephones have been summarily removed will be given priority in the distribution of the available plant?

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: (a) 65

(b) It is not possible to give a definite reply to this part of the question in its present form as telephones are not transferred as separate entities. The matter is explained further in the reply to the other parts

(c) The New Delhi Telephone System has been overloaded for a long time and the demand for telephones for urgent war purposes has now exceeded the capacity of the system. In addition it was necessary to provide approximately 80 telephones in connection with the present Session of the Central Legislature. It is also known from experience that a further irresistible demand

will be made before the end of the present cold weather. As it was impossible to expand the System in time, it was necessary to cut off a certain number of subscribers and these were selected on the advice of the special committee which had been appointed for this purpose. Telephones are not requisitioned individually for particular purposes as the System has to be treated as a whole and by obtaining relief in one area it is possible to give telephones in another area.

(d) The necessity of providing telephones for Members of the Central Legislature was taken into account as an immediate requirement but compulsory disconnection would have been unavoidable apart from this demand and requirements as a whole will not permit re-connection of the permanent subscribers in question at the end of the Session.

(e) Some of the new plant has already been shipped and arrangements have been made to instal it as soon as it arrives. There is, however, always the danger that consignments may be lost and in any case it is not possible to bring it into service before the end of April 1945, earliest.

(f) The permanent subscribers whose telephones have been removed will be given priority immediately after demands having prior right either from war necessity or by virtue of compulsory removal at an earlier date.

Sir F. E. James: May I ask my Honourable friend whether I was right in hearing from him that the number of permanent telephones, i.e., telephones of long-standing subscribers which have been removed, was 65 and the number of telephones which the meeting of the Central Legislature involved was 80?

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: That is correct, Sir.

Sir F. E. James: I take it that the 80 telephones which are being installed as a result of the meeting of the Central Legislature are temporary connections only.

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: That is also correct. The position is that whenever the Central Legislature meets we have this periodical demand for telephones and we make provision accordingly. I might perhaps explain that at the present time the excess over our safe load in our local telephone exchanges here is 186. It is made up as follows:

80 is the ordinary excess which we had before.

80 connections have been given to the Honourable Members of the Legislature.

Six very urgent Government connections have been made and 20 more are considered necessary at once.

But I would add as regards the connections given to Honourable Members of the Legislature, that they do not add very badly to the load which we have to carry during busy hours, because Honourable Members are generally occupied here or in another place during those busy hours and the telephones which they have are either at their place of business or at their residence, and they use them in the evenings when we can risk the heavy load which is thus given.

Sir F. E. James: May I ask my Honourable friend whether his Department has considered approaching the Presidents of the two Legislatures with a view to requesting them to ask the House Committees of both Houses to review the telephones which are installed for Honourable Members in order that every possibility of economy might be exercised by Honourable Members in that regard?

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: The reply to that question, Sir, is in the negative, because the Posts and Telegraphs Department has always considered it as one of the primary obligations of the Department to see that Honourable Members of the Legislature have every facility for communication. I have also already explained to the Honourable Member that these connections given to Honourable Members of the Legislature do not embarrass us very considerably, but if Honourable Members of the House think it necessary, I would be quite prepared to request the Director General of Posts and Telegraphs to consider consulting the Presidents of the two Houses as to whether connections could be cut down.

Several Honourable Members: No, no.

MOTIONS FOR ADJOURNMENT

ILL-TREATMENT METED OUT TO MR. RAM CHARAN AGARWAL BY THE DELHI POLICE

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) The first adjournment motion for today is Motion No 40 on the list by Mr. Kaulash Bihari Lall regarding "the revengeful conduct of the Delhi Kotwali Police in handcuffing Mr. Ram Charan Agarwal, a respectable citizen of Delhi and making him march on foot from the kotwali to the jail and refusing him the use of a pillow while allowing a wrapper and a *gadida* and keeping him without food for a day and a half against the declared policy and practice of the Government with regard to the treatment of political prisoners."

I should like to know from the Honourable the Home Member what the facts of the case are

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie (Home Member) I have taken, Sir, great care to get the facts of the case. I got a report last night from the Chief Commissioner which, owing to insufficiency of time, was not complete in certain details. I therefore saw this morning both the Additional Superintendent of Police and an officer from the Kotwali (Police Station). I have also verified some of the facts from the Deputy Superintendent of Police (CID) and I have not the least doubt that the facts I am going to place before the House are correct.

Mr. Ram Charan Agarwal was arrested on the 7th of October for breach of a restrictive order passed against him under Ordinance III of 1944. He was brought to the kotwali between 7 and 8 p.m. He was given special permission to bring down his bedding. He had had his food before he arrived at the kotwali. He left the kotwali about 10 a.m. next day (Sunday) and was taken to the cutchery. He had tea before he left.

An Honourable Member: *Khal Uha?*

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: No. *Roti bh: diya*

He was not in police custody for a day and a half. He was there only for fourteen hours. There was no question of the use of a pillow being refused since he was allowed to bring his own bedding. He was also permitted to have food. He was taken from the kotwali to the cutchery on foot, handcuffed. From the cutchery he was taken in a prison van to the magistrate on duty. Being a Sunday the cutchery was not open. That magistrate who is the Treasury Officer lives in the Hazari. As I said, Ram Charan Agarwal was taken there along with the other prisoners in a prison van. From there he was remanded to the district jail. The original remand for one day was extended to three days and then he was let out on bail. So the only question that arises is about his removal on foot from the kotwali to the cutchery and his being fettered and whether such action can be considered as revengeful. Honourable Members will understand that when the Police escort a prisoner from one place to another.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) I just want to know what the facts of the case are.

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: The facts are, Sir, that the handcuffing was in accordance with the Punjab Government rules on the subject.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) On the facts stated by the Honourable Member I rule the motion out of order.

FAILURE TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS FOR CARRYING HAJ PILGRIMS TO HEDJAZ

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) The next adjournment portion is one by Khan Bahadur Shaikh Fazl-i-Haq Piracha relating to 'the failure of the Government to make arrangements for the carrying of Haj Pilgrims to Hedjaz who had already secured passage in accordance with the directions and rules laid down by the Government, thereby causing great loss, hardship and inconvenience to a large number of pilgrims'."

What are the facts in this matter?

Khan Bahadur Shaikh Fazl-i-Haq Piracha (North-West Punjab Muhammadan) The basis of the motion that I have given notice of moving is a telegram sent by Khan Bahadur Haji Wajhuddin (an ex-Member of this House

[Khan Bahadur Sheikh Fazl-i-Haq Piracha] and President of the Haj Pilgrim Protection League, Delhi) and also a statement issued by him on the 20th October in the *Dawn* which, if the Honourable the President desires, I should be glad to read out for his information.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) What is the present state of things? How many pilgrims have already embarked and how many yet remain?

Khan Bahadur Shaikh Fazl-i-Haq Piracha: I do not know the exact number of pilgrims but there is the statement published in the *Dawn* of the 2nd of this month, in which it is said that Mr Gazdar, the Home Member to the Government of Sind and Chairman of the Port Haj Committee, in a statement had said that there are nearly 3000 pilgrims in the Haj camp at Karachi. The authorities have made provision for 2,245 pilgrims in the second batch but there are about 600 more who have paid all their charges and are insisting to be included in the second batch and the Committee has asked the Central Government for accommodation for them in that batch. This is, Sir, about the second batch which is to leave or has left. But from amongst the first batch there were about 100 pilgrims who were not allowed to embark the pilgrim ship that was leaving that day. Therefore, Sir, that makes sufficient ground for the house to consider the motion I have moved.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) Do you mean to say that only one hundred pilgrims have not been able to obtain accommodation?

Khan Bahadur Shaikh Fazl-i-Haq Piracha: In the first batch 100 and in the second 600.

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare (Member for Commonwealth Relations) The facts so far known are as follows. Owing to the abnormal conditions prevailing in war time our final decision to organise Haj sailings this year was unavoidably delayed. We could not therefore give longer notice. A party of about 16 pilgrims who had booked their passages was left behind, as they could not arrive at the dock in time.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) How many pilgrims?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: Sixteen. The boat was held up for them for about an hour but they arrived too late. The Honourable Member mentioned a telegram from Khan Bahadur Haji Wajihuddin. I got a telegram from him yesterday where he has expressed complete satisfaction with regard to the position and has no complaints to make. Tickets could not also be issued to 200 pilgrims from the Manipur State and neighbouring places. 100 of these pilgrims had been given reservation cards for seats. These passengers also arrived rather late and the necessary pre-embarkation formalities could not be gone through in time. They did not, however, return to their homes but stayed on at the pilgrim camp. They will be accommodated in the boat scheduled for the second sailing. The complaint that a considerable number of pilgrims who had already secured passages have not been provided for seems to be exaggerated. The above facts relate to the first sailing but we have no information as to what has happened regarding the second sailing. Owing to war conditions we could only provide for a limited number of pilgrims and in spite of our best efforts ideal conditions could not be secured for the pilgrims.

Mr. President: (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) How many had already secured accommodation and have left?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: About 5000.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) Is that the usual number?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: Yes, Sir that was the number fixed. We had fixed a limit of 5000. The Under Secretary and the Haj Officer in the Department, both Muslims, have been camping out at Karachi as they did on the eve of the first sailing. Full instructions have been issued to ensure reasonable comforts and to accommodate as many surplus passengers as may be feasible. They have been able to arrange for the embarkation of 400 pilgrims in excess of the number prescribed by the Shipping Rules. This is all that could be done.

Complaints have also been made about advanced collections of Saudi Arabian and other dues.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) That does not arise out of this motion.

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: My contention is that we have done our best in the abnormal conditions prevailing and there is no case on the facts, therefore, for the adjournment of this adjournment motion. Sir, I oppose the motion.

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan (Rohilkund and Kumaon Divisions, Muhammadan Rural) May I point out, Sir, that there are certain facts which are not quite clear. The Honourable Member has said that 5,000 pilgrims have already left the shores of India. Is that correct?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: I said that 5,000 pilgrims have been allowed to sail.

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: That may be so, but how many did actually leave by the first boat? Let me tell him that only 86 have left.

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: I do not believe that information, but the full figures have not yet been received by us.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan (Agra Division, Muhammadan Rural). Can you give any figures?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) On the facts mentioned by the Honourable Member who is in charge of the Haj pilgrimage, I rule that there is no justification for this motion.

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: The facts that he has given are wrong.

ECONOMIC SANCTIONS AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) Mr. Hooseinbhoy Lalljee has given notice of an adjournment motion by which he wishes "to set up a machinery to apply economic sanctions against South Africa on account of its growing anti-Indian attitude as evidenced by the Natal Ordinance."

This motion is not in order because it is not intended to discuss any action taken by the Government of India, but the suggestion is made for certain action to be taken. The motion is not in order.

FAILURE TO FRAME AND ENFORCE RULES UNDER RECIPROCITY ACT

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) The next motion is also in the name of Mr. Hooseinbhoy Lalljee. In this motion he wishes to discuss "the failure of the Government of India to frame and enforce all the necessary rules under the Reciprocity Act."

Were the Government of India expected to frame these rules?

Mr. Hooseinbhoy A. Lalljee (Bombay Central Division, Muhammadan Rural) Sir, there is a long history behind it. It is now over two years that we have been asking the Government of India about this matter and they have every time been saying that they are preparing the rules. But I do not want to go into the details as I find the Honourable the Leader of the House has fixed a day for going into these matters. I would like to be told what is the day that has been fixed for this purpose.

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed (Leader of the House) It is Monday, the 6th of November.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) The next motion is also in the name of Mr. Hooseinbhoy Lalljee.

Mr. Hooseinbhoy A. Lalljee: Sir, the same remarks apply to this. I do not want to move it now because a day has been fixed for this purpose.

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: Sir, with your permission I want to inform the House that 1,900 pilgrims have left by the first sailings.

APPOINTMENTS TO SUPERIOR REVENUE ESTABLISHMENT OF INDIAN STATE RAILWAYS, STORES DEPARTMENT

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) The next motion is in the name of Mr H M Abdullah. He wishes to discuss "the appointment by the Railway Board of nine probationers to superior revenue establishment of the Indian State Railways, Stores Department, none of whom is a Muslim or a member of any other minority community, in direct contravention of the Government of India Resolution No F14/17B/33, dated 4th July 1934".

I would like to know what are the facts

Mr. H. M. Abdullah (West Central Punjab Muhammadan) Sir, I do not wish to move this motion

REFUSAL OF PERMISSION FOR REPUBLICATION OF NATIONAL HERALD AND FORWARD

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) The next motion is in the name of Mr Avinashilingam Chettiar. He wishes to discuss "the refusal of the Government to permit the republication of *National Herald* and *Forward* and thus using the Paper Control Order to suppress Newspapers for political reasons"

I do not know if the Honourable Member can explain it further

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar (Salem and Coimbatore cum North Arcot Non-Muhammadan Rural) Sir, I do not move it

UNCONSTITUTIONAL CONDUCT OF GOVERNMENT IN APPOINTING ADJUDICATOR IN TRADE DISPUTE BETWEEN SHAHDARA (DELHI) SAHARANPUR LIGHT RAILWAY AND ITS EMPLOYEES, ETC.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) The next motion stands in the name of Mr Dam. He wishes to discuss "the unconstitutional conduct of the Central Government in the appointment of the Adjudicator in the trade dispute between the Administration of the Shahdara (Delhi) Saharanpur Light Railway and its employees and further failure of the Central Government in not extending the order on the award of the said Adjudicator to the employees on the East Indian Railway by making cheap grains available at the rates charged by the North Western Railway as made available to the employees on the Shahdara (Delhi) Saharanpur Light Railway"

What is the exact complaint? Does he want that there must be some sort of allowances which have been awarded elsewhere?

Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam (Surma Valley cum Shillong Non-Muhammadan) Sir, the rule says that both parties to the dispute should apply for a reference to the court. That was done and the privileges that were extended to the employees of the North Western Railway were not extended to the employees of the East Indian Railway as regards the cheap grains that were made available to them

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) You want the same privileges to be extended to the employees of the East Indian Railway

Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam: Yes, Sir

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar (Labour Member) Sir, I oppose the motion and I must say that my Honourable friend is considerably misinformed as to the facts and the circumstances. This adjudication took place under Rule 81A

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) The only question before the House is whether the motion is in order

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I am stating the facts. This adjudication took place under Rule 81A of the Defence of India Rules and the power to appoint an Adjudicator completely vests in the Government of India. Therefore, there is nothing unconstitutional in the Government of India appointing an Adjudicator to settle this dispute particularly when the dispute covered a railway which runs in two provinces, namely, the United Provinces and Delhi and no single Provincial Government was entitled to appoint an

Adjudicator Therefore, I submit there is nothing unconstitutional in the action taken.

With regard to the second part, my submission is that my Honourable friend is considerably misinformed on the point because the award of the Adjudicator did not exclude any dispute with regard to the other Railway. It was certainly not open to the Government to extend the provisions of the award to a railway which was not the subject-matter of the dispute at all. The dispute concerned only the Shahdara (Delhi) Saharanpur Light Railway and not the East Indian Railway.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) There was no such demand on behalf of the employees of the East Indian Railway?

The Honourable Dr. B. E. Ambedkar: Certainly not, Sir

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) The facts stated by the Honourable Member for Labour show that there is no justification for this motion. Therefore, it is disallowed.

SINKING OF THE *S S CORMORANT*

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) The next motion stands in the name of Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani. He wishes to discuss "the sinking of the old repairable steamer *S S Cormorant* of O T Railway in the Ganges near Digba Ghat in Bihar on the 12th September last due to overcrowding and negligence of the Railway authority and the action of the said Railway Authority to conceal losses of lives and goods by one-sided enquiries".

These are general terms. What did actually happen?

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani (Tirhut Division Muhammadan) Sir, on the 12th September last the steamer *S S Cormorant* started from Mahendra Ghat and according to the report of the Inquiry Committee 2,811 tickets were issued till noon at Digba Ghat and 341 tickets were issued at the starting station, Mahendra Ghat. The number of passengers altogether came to about 2,600. Besides these passengers, some passengers also had come from the E I R side. I fail to understand as to how the Committee came to the conclusion that only 600 passengers were on the steamer and there was no overcrowding.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) What does O T stand for?

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani Oudh and Tirhut Railway.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) Is that a Company-managed railway or a State-managed railway?

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani It is a State-managed railway.

The second point is that the steamer was declared already, according to my information, a damaged one and was fit to be repaired. This was a great negligence on the part of the Railway authorities, to use such a damaged steamer and there was evidently overcrowding.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) The sinking of the steamer was due to overcrowding?

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: Overcrowding and also the damaged condition of the steamer.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall (Member for Railways and War Transport) I think I can best explain this matter by reading some extracts from the communiqué of the Bihar Government which begins by saying

"A good deal of misapprehension seems to prevail and several ill informed statements have appeared in the press in connection with the accident which happened to the passenger steamer *S S Cormorant* on the 12th September 1944. Government consider it desirable to state the correct facts which have been ascertained during Police investigation and the enquiry of the Joint Enquiry Board."

They then proceed to give the facts

"*S S Cormorant* had a carrying capacity of one thousand at the time of the accident was carrying about 600 persons."

To cut a long story short the bow of the steamer suddenly struck against some hard substance, supposed to be a submerged tree trunk. With great

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~~passengers~~, the Commander ordered the steamer to be stopped and backed towards the bank and, at the same time, sounded the danger whistle. Passengers then proceeded to disembark on the bank. I have no doubt there was a certain amount of rush but that any number of passengers was lost is not the fact.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) No life was lost?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: One child of six years old was missing. The whole of the 37 lifebuoys which were on the steamer were subsequently found intact. It shows that the passengers found no need to use them and there was no occasion for any one to jump into the stream. The danger whistle was blown and help was sent to the spot but was found to be unnecessary. I need not, I think, quote the paragraph in the report which explains why the number of passengers was round about 600 but the report ends up by saying

"In the above circumstances Government are satisfied that the accident was an accident and no one could be held responsible for it and they see no reason for ordering a special enquiry into the cause of the accident. The sensational reports about the accident that appeared in some newspapers were grossly exaggerated or inaccurate on many important details and apparently published without any care being taken to find out the facts."

There is one other point. The Honourable Member suggested that the ship was in a bad state of repair. The facts are these

"The vessel has been laid up for survey every year and dry docked every four years, the provisions of the Inland Steam Vessels Act (Act I of 1917) and the rules made thereunder by the Government of Bihar being complied with."

Mr. Muhammad Nauman (Patna and Chota Nagpur cum Orissa Muhammadan) Is it not a fact that the steamer met with an accident before this and was not considered fit to ply? Was it not due to the O and T Railway Administration's negligence that this vessel was allowed to ply?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: That is not a fact.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) In view of the facts stated, I must disallow this motion.

INACCURATE GOVERNMENT REPLY RE GOVERNMENT CONTRIBUTIONS TO INDIAN LABOUR FEDERATION.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) The next one is in the name of Mr Jamnadas Mehta. He wants to discuss "the inaccurate, incomplete and misleading reply given by the Honourable Member for Labour to a question asked in the Assembly yesterday about the alleged grant of Rs 13,000 per month to the Indian Federation of Labour."

The Honourable Member does not specify what the incorrect statement is. I want to know what is the incorrect statement.

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta (Bombay Central Division Non-Muhammadan Rural) The Government's reply was that the grant of Rs 13,000 was made to the Federation which I dispute as incorrect.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) Will the Honourable Member kindly read the reply?

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: I have not got the *Hindustan Times* with me but I may tell you

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) The Honourable Member has charged the Member of Government with making an inaccurate and misleading reply. Surely the Honourable Member ought to be prepared to prove his case. He must give me the exact replies.

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: That is what I am trying to do.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) The Honourable Member must read out from the record of the proceedings. I cannot accept any other statement.

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: I can state from memory the exact reply.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) The record is there - You cannot rely on memory. Heaps of questions were asked yesterday.

Mr. Jannadas M. Mehta: If I get a copy of the proceedings

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) The Honourable Member must resume his seat. He should get hold of the proceedings before he charges any Member of this House with making incorrect, false and misleading statements.

Mr. Jannadas M. Mehta: If you will kindly listen to me

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) Will the Honourable Member resume his seat?

Mr. Jannadas M. Mehta: I shall take another opportunity

RESOLUTION RE PROTECTION OF MOSQUES IN NEW DELHI—contd

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) Further discussion of the Resolution moved by Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan on the 30th March, 1944

Maulvi Muhammad Abdül Ghani (Tuhut Division Muhammadan) The Resolution is a very modest one. Although the power of controlling these mosques vests in the Majlis under Act XIII of 1943, section 25 clearly says

Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall (Bhagilpur, Purnea and the Southal Parganas Non-Muhammadan) On a point of order. This Resolution raises substantially more than one definite issue. I say that it is out of order under Standing Order 59. It asks that the bungalows should be given to the Muslim employees.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) Why did not the Honourable Member raise this before?

Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall: A point of order could be raised at any time.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) It ought to have been raised before. It cannot be raised now.

Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall: Supposing a wrong thing has been done and allowed to be discussed, is it not open to any Member to raise a point of order at a later stage?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) The objection ought to have been taken earlier. Will the Honourable Member resume his seat? Mr. Ghani will proceed with his speech.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdül Ghani: I was submitting that under Act XIII of 1943 the Majlis has got full powers of control over all kinds of wakfs in the province of Delhi. The powers given are mentioned in section 25 (1) the general superintendence and control of all wakfs in the province shall be vested in the Majlis, and the Majlis shall do all things necessary to ensure that the wakfs are properly supervised and administered. Sub-section (3) (g) says 'to give directions for the proper administration of a wakf in accordance with the law governing such wakf and the wishes of the wakfs in so far as such wishes can be ascertained and are not repugnant to such laws'.

The Majlis is given full power to repair and take charge of all these mosques in the whole province of Delhi. The Resolution only means that there should not be any friction between the officials and the Muslim public represented by the Wakf Majlis. In order to avoid friction this Resolution has been brought forward, otherwise there was no necessity of bringing in such a Resolution, because already the Majlis has the full control of all these things, and complete mastery over all these mosques is vested in the Majlis. We have, however, said experience of the affairs during the past years, that the treatment of the Government was not good, so far as these wakf properties, particularly mosques, were concerned. It happened sometimes ago that 34 mosques and *khanquahs* with their compounds were leased to the Jama Masjid Committee at a rental of 3 annas per annum, as if the Government were master of all those things. This was resented and the Government took action to remedy them. If you look to the wretched conditions of mosques in New Delhi, you will find that every now and then these mosques and wakf properties are treated very badly. Even those mosques which are under the supervision and superintendence of the Archaeological Department under the Preservation of Monuments Act are

[Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani]

not in good condition. Take the case of Bhuli-Bhatari Sarai which has a mosque also. This mosque, if you go there you will see that dirt and other filthy things are lying inside the mosque. It is not preserved properly but used as a lavatory by persons passing that way. You will find that latrines have been built near the graves by the P. W. D. You will remember, Sir, when Falkatara Mosque Bill was introduced in this House, we then came to know that 16 mosques had already been acquired by the Government, along with temples, and about 39,000 rupees were lying with the District Judge and for the disposal of that money the said Bill was introduced. We objected to the passing of such a Bill and the matter was dropped. So, we are afraid of the bad conditions and mismanagement of the wakf properties here and hence an Act was passed for which we thank the Government for their assistance. Now, the Resolution is a very modest one and I do not think the Department of Labour should have any kind of objection in giving permission for repairs and other things which are in the power of the Majlis. They can say this, that the individuals should not have any right of repairs. It may be so, but after all the Majlis is duly constituted under the Act and it is functioning in this province. One thing can be done by the Government, that all matters connected with all these mosques should be entrusted to the wakf Majlis which is the competent authority to repair them. As regards the offering of prayers I think when the mosques have been once built and used for prayers, nobody can obstruct offering prayers therein, and I think there should not be any kind of restriction in offering prayers. The Government may come forward and say that these mosques which are within the compound of the Government quarters, if used, may inconvenience the occupants staying in those quarters. Government must have been well advised to leave out those mosques outside, however the easy remedy is for the Government to separate the mosque with its compound from the bungalow and then there will be no friction at all. The people will go by the outer road and they will offer their prayers and come away. There will be no friction at any time with the inmates of the bungalows. With these few words, I fully support the Resolution and hope the Government will reconsider their position and will be well advised to accept my suggestion just made.

Mr. Kailash Bihari Lal: Again, Sir, on another point of order. Lest I may be too late I want to say at the very beginning that in today's agenda there are a number of Resolutions—one carried over from a previous day, and five more Resolutions. I do not find my Resolution which has been disallowed and which came in the ballot.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): If it has been disallowed, you cannot raise a point of order on that.

Mr. Kailash Bihari Lal: The point is that it was disallowed on the ground that it raises more than one substantive issue.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member cannot argue the matter. The Honourable Member can only make any representation he likes to the Chair, then I shall be very glad to reconsider it.

Mr. Kailash Bihari Lal: Let it be considered and revised just now.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): It cannot be done now.

Mr. Kailash Bihari Lal: What will be the good of my making a representation later on?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member knows the practice of the House, he cannot do it now; I cannot allow any question or resolution that is disallowed by me to be discussed here.

Mr. Kailash Bihari Lal: When shall I make a representation, that is the point.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member can write to me or to the Secretary.

Mr. Kailash Bihari Lal: But the day for Resolutions is over.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) I cannot help it, the order has been passed and cannot be reviewed here

Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall: But it is no use

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) Order, order, will the Honourable Member resume his seat?

Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall: I have got a right to be heard

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) I must ask the Honourable Member to resume his seat

Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall: If I am given the opportunity

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) The Honourable Member is obstructing the proceedings of the House

Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall: Your temper cannot cow me down I am not used to be treated like a school boy I must be heard

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) The Honourable Member has been heard, I have given my ruling

Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall: If the Chair gives me an assurance that it is going to hear me, only then I will resume my seat

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) I will not give any assurance The Honourable Member can make a representation to me later on

Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall: I do not believe in Chamber representations I must be heard on the floor of the House

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) The Honourable Member cannot be heard now Will the Honourable Member obey the Ruling of the Chair?

Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall: Only if I am allowed to exercise my right and make my submission

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) I cannot allow that

Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall: I must make my submission

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) The Honourable Member has already made his submissions

Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall: But I have not been allowed to submit my points.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) The Honourable Member is obstructing the proceedings of the House

Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall: I find the Chair is not allowing me to make my submissions I cannot put up with that sort of thing I am making my protest to the Chair

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) He should obey the Ruling of the Chair

Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall: But I am not going to take it lying down like a school boy

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim). Will the Honourable Member accept my Ruling or not?

Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall: Yes, but I must be allowed to have my points put before you

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) But the Ruling of the Chair cannot be discussed on the floor of the House

Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall: What cannot be discussed?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) My Ruling.

Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall: I find that the Honourable the President is losing temper at all times and it is very difficult for me to make my submissions

Several Honourable Members: Order, order, obey the Chair

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) I find the Honourable Member is obstructing the proceedings of the House I must ask him to leave the House, as he is persisting in obstructing

Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall: I am willing to take the extreme penalty imposed by you But I am not going to submit like a school boy to your temper I leave the House under protest

(Then the Honourable Member, Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall, left the House.)

Mr. Lalchand Navai (Sind Non-Muhammadan Rural) Sir, I intervene in this debate because I find that some of the demands made in the Resolution are fair and reasonable and so far as those portions are concerned, I shall give my support and no further. The Resolution says

"That this Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council that in order to keep in proper repairs and to protect the mosques situated in New Delhi, he should be pleased to take the following certain steps

So far as keeping the mosques in proper repair is concerned, and so far as protecting them is concerned, nobody would object to it. The Majlis might surely go and repair them. Not only mosques should be repaired but even all other places of worship, such as *mandirs*, *Tikanas*, etc., should all be allowed to be repaired in the same manner. So far as that portion of the Resolution is concerned, it will have my full support and sympathy.

Coming to the details what do I find? It is said,

"Instruct the Department concerned to allot all those bungalows in the compounds of which mosques are situated only to the Muslim employees of the Government."

I cannot support this part of the Resolution. I will make another suggestion to bring about the same result. In Sind also there was sometime ago great disturbance involving loss of life regarding the use of a mosque and the device employed was to separate that part for prayers which occupied the mosque. My suggestion therefore is that the portion of the compound of the bungalow in which a mosque is situated should be enclosed by four walls and a separate entrance should be made leading to the mosque from outside. Then there will be no difficulty in people having access to the mosque. It does not matter then who is occupying the bungalow, Hindu, Muslim or Christian. This suggestion of mine if adopted will remove all the cause for rancour and ill feeling and it will avoid all communal questions.

The next portion of the Resolution says

"Instruct the Department concerned and the New Delhi Municipal Committee that they should give permission, without delay on presentation of applications by the Muslims for repairs"—

"who should be instructed not to obstruct or stop their Muslim servants or visitors from saying prayers in such mosques"

There can be no objection to this if the entrance to the mosque is from outside. If the demands are reasonable, there can be no objection. As regards these visitors, they cannot obstruct the occupant of the bungalow since these visitors will enter the mosque only from outside. No inconvenience can be caused to the inmates of the bungalow.

The next portion of the Resolution reads

"Instruct the Department concerned and the New Delhi Municipal committee that they should give permission without delay on presentation of applications by the Muslims for the repairs or restoration to the old position or rebuilding with some altered designs of mosques situated either in the compound of any Government bungalow or on any place surrounded by Government or Municipal property."

I think if an application is presented in the ordinary way, the Municipality or the Government will have to dispose of the same. Where they allow alterations or additions, they are all governed by the bylaws and rules framed. If the applications sent conform to those rules and regulations, then they will be considered. If there are cases in which no reply has been given or unreasonable replies have been given, then there are remedies under the Act for the applicant. Government can certainly decide those individual cases. But to say that general instructions should be given that permission should be given irrespective of the fact whether they conform to rules and regulations or not, this is a thing which I cannot accept. If there has been obstruction or undue delay, then those cases only can be dealt with by the Government. I think they will be attended to. The Government or the Municipality will not be unreasonable in dealing with applications. If they are unreasonable, then recommendations can be made that they should not be obstructive. This discussion in the House will open their eyes. If the Government or the Municipality take care of all public places of worship, mosques, *mandirs*, etc., of any community, and build a separate entrance from outside, then I think there will be no disturbance. I support the Resolution to this extent.

Mr. J. D. Tyson (Secretary, Department of Education, Health and Lands) Sir, the Resolution before the House falls into two parts and similarly the amendment proposed by my Honourable friend Seth Abdoola Haroon falls into two parts. The first part of the Resolution and of the amendment has already been dealt with by the Honourable the Labour Member, and I propose to confine myself to the second part of the Resolution and of the amendment which concern my department. There are three categories of mosques, I suppose, in the Delhi area. There are those in private occupation with the repair of which we are not concerned and I will leave those out of account. Then there are mosques under the charge of the Archaeological Department. I think some 12 out of 66 mosques are in the charge of that department. The repair of those mosques is the duty and responsibility of the Archaeological Department and repair is not entrusted by that department to any outside authority or person, repairs are done as far as the funds at the disposal of that department permit and I do not think, though reference has been made by one Honourable Member to the way in which they are maintained, that that is really the subject matter of the Resolution before the House. I would only say that the right of the Muslim public to worship in the Archaeological Department-controlled mosques is scrupulously guarded and respected. But I think the Resolution before us is directed to the position as regards the third class of mosques which are referred to by the Honourable the Mover of the Resolution as "mosques surrounded by Government or municipal property". Those are mosques which have not been regarded as sufficiently important for archaeological reasons to be made protected monuments by the Archaeological Department and for which in most cases there is no regular arrangement in existence for their repairs.

Now, Sir, the Resolution asks the Governor General with regard to this last class to instruct the department concerned and the New Delhi Municipal Committee that they should give permission without delay on presentation of an application by the Muslims for repairs to these mosques. In the first place there are obvious objections and difficulties in the way of acceptance of casual applications from Muslims or members of the Muslim public for permission to repair or reconstruct mosques standing on sites surrounded, as my Honourable friend says, by Government or municipal land. In fact one of the great difficulties that the local authorities have had with regard to this class of mosques is to be sure that the party coming forward is a man of substance, that he will be able to carry through the repairs that he wishes to carry through and that he can be relied upon to stick to the terms arranged for the repair of the mosque. And it was to surmount that difficulty that the late Chief Commissioner proposed to deal through one responsible body, the Jumma Masjid Committee, to put them formally in charge of this category of mosques for the regular repair of which no other arrangement exists. I may say that no financial obligation was placed on the Jumma Masjid Committee, but they were mainly to act in an advisory capacity and to advise the authorities whether the persons coming forward were persons who could safely be entrusted with the repairs. This laudable effort to get the imprimatur of a responsible Muslim committee on repair applications and to have its advice in dealing with these applications fell through. It is a pity it fell through because it had made a very good beginning but it fell through on a point to which I do not wish to refer at length here. Since that attempt fell to the ground we have had set up this new body, the Majlis-i-Wakf, and the Chief Commissioner is now dealing with this matter through this body. I am glad to be able to say that it looks as though this body was going to be extremely helpful to the authorities and to the community in their handling of this question of repairs to mosques. I believe that through this body the Chief Commissioner will have some one with whom he really can deal and feel assured that the repair of mosques is in right hands. I am glad to understand also that the point on which the previous arrangement broke down has been met. A formula acceptable to both parties has been evolved and it is probable that the Majlis-i-Wakf will be able to execute

[Mr J D Tyson]

agreements under which they will be made responsible for the repair of a great many of these mosques. But though, Sir, that will remove one of the chief difficulties of the past that have faced the local authorities, there still remains the necessity, which I think must remain, for the person who wishes to effect a repair or erection or re-erection to comply with the requirements of the New Delhi Municipal Committee. I do not think that it is seriously suggested that that should be waived. There are health requirements and building requirements and they must apply to any kind of building that is put up within the area of New Delhi. There should not ordinarily be great delay in the disposal of these matters. Under the Municipal Act the authorities are bound to give either an express permission or refusal within 60 days of the application. I think, therefore, that now that we have got a body set up who will take up the responsibility of advising about people who are coming to finance repairs, things ought to go better than in the past. I am not prepared to admit that the authorities have been unsympathetic in the past. According to some figures that we got out a few years ago I find that permission had up to a date in 1940 been already granted for the rebuilding of mosques in two cases, other improvements in 15 cases, in 4 cases Government have provided wire fencing and hedges, in 2 more Government have provided boundary walls, and in one case Government have built a complete set of quarters for Maulvi, fitted with sanitary and electric installations and have also provided a private access road. Since then there was the case of the Pandara Road mosque which has been restored partially at Government expense and the community themselves were permitted to make improvements to it, and that permission was given even though the arrangement with the Jumma Masjid Committee had by that time broken down.

I think we may claim, Sir, that the local authorities are not unsympathetic in these matters. In the case of the small Quernsary mosque to which reference has been made I think there must be some misunderstanding. The Chief Commissioner informs me that on three occasions within recent years sanction to designs for improving the mosque has been given to persons in charge of the mosque to execute repairs and improvements; and a year or two ago when that very handsome tree fell down and damage was done I believe that alterations and repairs were carried out at the expense of Government to that mosque.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan (Agra Division, Muhammadan Rural). Which mosque?

Mr J. D. Tyson. The small mosque near Western Court to which my Honourable friend referred. I think his point was that there has been refusal to allow them to extend the mosque over the full area of the *chabutra*. If they have got a plan for it and if it is to cover only the *chabutra* and does not involve any impediment below the *chabutra*—on the foot path and the highway—and if it were pressed again, I am sure it would be sympathetically considered.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan. Thank you very much.

Mr J D Tyson. Sir, on another point to which my Honourable friend referred,—I am afraid I cannot agree that the authorities can give up altogether any say in the matter of design of the mosque. Delhi is not in any way an ordinary place and I think the power must be retained to veto obviously incongruous designs.

For the reasons I have indicated, I am afraid we cannot accept the Resolution as it has been put up; still less I am afraid could we accept the amendment moved by my Honourable friend, Mr Yusuf Abdoolah Haroon. It goes much further and asks the department concerned to be instructed to give all facilities, assistance and necessary legal permits to such Mussalmans as come forward to repair, restore or rebuild any existing mosque in New Delhi area. As I have said, we must ensure that only people of substance are allowed to take up such matters and I think the new body which has been set up is going to be very help-

ful to us in that matter. I would reiterate that it is the intention neither of the Government nor of the local authorities, as I have been assured, to prevent any of these old religious buildings being maintained or put into a state of repair and used for their original purpose. But in a place like Delhi, as I have said before, it is only natural and proper that the authorities, including the New Delhi Municipality, should wish to retain an interest in the way in which repairs are carried out. We must, therefore, continue to reserve a right to treat applications on their merits. But I hope that the Honourable Member will not press his Resolution in view of the assurance of sympathetic consideration of applications on their merits which I have given.

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan (Rohilkhand and Kumaon Divisions, Muhammadan Rivali). Sir, I shall deal only with the speech of the Honourable Member in charge of the Labour Department. His speech has indeed raised a very fundamental question which is of vital importance to the Mussalmans. His speech is an indication of how difficult it is for a non-Muslim to understand the true meaning of prayer and the position of a mosque in Islam. It indeed is a pity that in a matter like this the Government as a whole do not consult together. The Muslim Members of the Government should have explained to the Honourable Member in charge of Labour Department as to what is the position of mosques in Islam.

The Honourable Member dealt with part (a) of the Resolution wherein it was stated that the Government houses which have mosques in their compounds should be allotted to Muslims and that no Muslim should be prevented from offering prayers in these mosques. I think, Sir, that these two parts are interconnected. My Honourable friend, Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan, when he made the proposal that these houses should be allotted to Muslim officers and so because he felt that it might not be liked by non-Muslims if Muslims went and offered prayers in their mosques. The Honourable Government Member has pointed out several difficulties in making such allotments. Sir, I think, Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan had met all those difficulties in the sense that he stated in his speech.

"I shall be satisfied if the Honourable Member for Labour Department says he will abide by the terms of the Resolution unless there is some great difficulty. If a Muslim is not found for the house only then should it be given to a non-Muslim and that also only temporarily."

My Honourable friend Sir Muhammad Yamin, made it quite clear that in cases where it was found difficult to allot a house to a Muslim then it might be given to a non-Muslim temporarily.

Now, Sir, with regard to the second part, that Muslims should be allowed to go and offer prayers in these mosques the Honourable Member for Labour said in his speech—

"I feel quite certain that I am not exaggerating the matter that if I were to introduce the kind of stipulation which is mentioned in the Resolution that every man whether he is Muslim or non-Muslim should open his compound to anybody who wants to come and say his prayers, it will be anything short of destroying the privacy of the premises and converting it if I may say so into a *musafar khana*."

Unfortunately the Honourable Member belongs to a community that has for generations been excluded from a place of worship and he is naturally not able to understand or appreciate the sanctity of a mosque and that a mosque is open to every Mussalman irrespective of whatever his position may be. If we were to accept what the Honourable Member has suggested it would mean putting restrictions on the right of the Mussalmans to offer prayers in a mosque. A mosque, may I tell the Honourable Member, is a place which is dedicated as *wagf*, it is the property of God, it does not belong to anybody, and therefore every Mussalman is entitled as of right to go and offer prayers in this house of God.

My Honourable friend is thinking of privacy of the private individuals who may be occupying those houses. May I tell him that before those houses were constructed, these mosques existed there and the Mussalmans had the right to go and offer prayers in those mosques. Therefore the houses that have been constructed and the people who are occupying those houses are doing so under

[Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan] the condition that the Mussalmans are entitled to go and offer prayers there. It is not a question that a house was there and later on a mosque was built, and even then, I believe that it would be impossible for the house-owner, once he has constructed a mosque, to stop Mussalmans from going and offering their prayers there.

Now, Sir, this is not a matter which we, the Muslim Members of this House, can take lightly. If we accept this position which has been put before the House by the Honourable the Labour Member then we will be nullifying the whole Islamic conception of prayer and the sanctity of mosques. Sir, I wish to point out to the Government that they should not treat mosques as *musafarkhanas*. They are not *musafarkhanas*. My Honourable friend has hurt the sentiments and feelings of Mussalmans by talking of mosques as if they were *musafarkhanas*. Sir, if the Government find that they cannot allow access to the whole compound, then what they should do is this: enclose these mosques and have a separate entrance so that the privacy of those residents who object to people offering prayers to their God may be safeguarded. But I cannot accept this position that we are to be prevented from going and offering prayers in these mosques. And let me tell the Government and warn the Government that this is not a matter which will end on the floor of the House. This is a matter for which the Mussalmans will have to make greater efforts and whatever sacrifices we may have to make in this connection, we shall not allow the Government to prevent us from going and offering prayers in our mosques.

Mr Lalchand Navalsrai: Not like it was done in Sukkur.

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: Sir, my Honourable friend cannot get out of the deserts of Sind, his mind is nothing but a desert.

Sir, I was saying that this really is a very serious matter and I warn the Government that they will not find a single Mussalman who will be willing to accept this position that the Mussalmans are to be prevented from going and offering prayers in any mosques. When my Honourable friend the Member made the suggestion that these houses should be allotted to Mussalmans, the idea was that those persons who are living there may not raise any objection or they may not be put to any inconvenience. But I do not agree, I say that if anybody is occupying that house, he is doing so under this condition that the Mussalmans are entitled to go and offer prayers to their God. If he does not like to live in this house he should leave that house, but we can never accept that position. As I have said before, mosques existed there when the houses were built and we Mussalmans have got a right legally and morally, in every sense of the word, to offer our prayers there. Sir, I appeal to the Government—and I appeal to the Government as a whole, not only to the Honourable the Labour Member because this is really not a matter which only concerns the Labour Department, this is a wider issue—I appeal to the whole Government to consider this matter carefully and not to take any step which might create a serious situation for which they alone will be responsible.

Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kasmi (Meerut Division, Muhammadan Rural): So far as the question of sanctity of mosques is concerned, it is not a question of sentiment, it is a question of recognising the law which is followed by the Mussalmans. A mosque which is built by a house-owner may be built for his own purposes and may be a private property, but even once if he allows the public to go and offer prayers and treats it as a public mosque it ceases to be a private mosque. And, as a matter of fact, a private mosque is no mosque at all.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: There is no such thing as 'private mosque.'

Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kasmi: You can, in your own house, reserve a room for offering prayers and not allow the public to enter, that would not make it a public mosque. But once the mosque is made public, it ceases to be the private property of anyone, it becomes the property of God. It is *wagf*, and every Mussalman has got a right to go and offer prayers there. It has been fully explained by the Deputy Leader of the Muslim League Party and I quite agree with him, and the reason why I have risen to say something in this matter is

that there is a general idea in the public here and everywhere—and probably rightly—that the policy of the present Government is not to repair themselves and not to allow Mussalmans to repair mosques in New Delhi and elsewhere. By keeping them under the protection of the Preservation of Old Monuments Act they intend to get them gradually destroyed in natural course. They want to retain them as monuments and if any part of these mosques falls down, they will not repair it themselves nor allow anybody to repair it.

I have found another difficulty. Mosques are in general taken over by the Archaeological Department probably with very good intentions, but unfortunately for ourselves we find that several difficulties and restrictions are put which frustrates the very object for which they were constructed. There are certain mosques, for example one in Mehrauli in which the *moazzin*—the person who calls for prayers and who looks after the mosque—is not allowed to remain there. Nobody remains there except ordinary labourers of the Archaeological Department who cut grass during the day and sleep there at night and thus they use it as a *musafarikhana*. It was brought to my notice that a regular dispute is going on in Mehrauli between the public and the employees of the Archaeological Department over this question. The Muslim public wants to keep the *moazzin* in the mosque at night, whereas the employees of Government do not allow that. My feeling is that Government did a very good thing by enacting the Act for the preservation of monuments and we, as a matter of fact, are obliged for that, but so far as mosques are concerned, they must also know that mosques—whether they come under the Preservation of Monuments Act or whether they happen to be in the vicinity of residential house—continue to be public mosques. Mussalmans have got a right to see that they continue to exist in the condition in which they were made. They have got a right to say their prayers there. If any private houses have been built round about these mosques it is not a question whether they were made under any condition or not but if the object of building those houses was to prevent people from going to the mosques then the houses have been illegally built. They must be demolished. They cannot be allowed to continue because a public mosque existed beforehand and no person has got any right to make a building near a public mosque and then say that you cannot enter the mosque because I have built a private house here. Building of a private house itself is an illegal thing if it is intended to prevent the entry of the public to the mosque.

The Resolution does not say that the Government should revise their whole policy so far as mosques are concerned. I would like to urge upon the Government to revise their policy not only in the case of those mosques which happen to be situated within the compounds of certain bungalows but also in the case of those which happen to be situated at places near which no buildings of the Government exist and still Mussalmans are not allowed to repair those mosques. They are *waqf* property and Muslims have got a right to go and say prayers there and to repair them if necessary. With these words I support the Resolution.

The Assembly then adjourned for Lunch till Three of the Clock.

The Assembly re-assembled after Lunch at Three of the Clock, Mr Abdul Qayum (one of the Panel of Chairmen) in the Chair.

Sir Abdul Halim Ghaznavi (Dacca cum Mymensingh Muhammadan Rural) Mr Chairman, after the able speech of my honourable friend, the Deputy Leader of the Muslim League to which the House has just listened, there is nothing much to say except that I am here to support him and vote with him.

Sir, a mosque, as he has explained, is the House of God and no man has any right to stop a Muslim from offering his prayers in that House of God. When the Government first constructed these buildings, they did a serious wrong by including these mosques in the premises. It has therefore become necessary to separate those mosques from the residential buildings and allow the Muslim public to use them for prayers.

[Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi]

The Resolution is a very modest one. I should have gone much further. If Government do not agree to pay for the removal, I undertake to put in the money required to separate all the mosques from the buildings since come into existence.

In this connection I may mention that a year and a half ago I was asked by a number of Muslim friends in this House to take charge and see to the completion of the construction of the Mosque at Talkatora, which is used by the Muslims employed in the Secretariat. They cannot go very far because they have to be back in office in time. At the beginning there was little response to the demand for fund required, but when I started with my own donation of Rs. 10,000, money flowed in so that I have now in the bank over a lakh of rupees for this mosque which is being completed and will be completed in another two months. The moment the Muslims found that I undertook to see that not a single penny would be wasted but would be utilised in the construction of this mosque or in repairing all the other mosques in New Delhi, I found no difficulty in finding the money. In fact Rs. 70,000 was collected from Delhi alone.

Now, Sir, after a few months Muslims came to me in hundreds and asked me to try and raise a fund to repair those ancient mosques which are existing in New Delhi. Those mosques, I assure you, Sir, will be repaired and we have already started to repair four mosques. The Chief Commissioner of Delhi, an Englishman, has a Muslim heart. When I approached him for assistance he told me that so far he had not found a single Muslim who would take over the burden of repairing those mosques. He said that I was the first man to have approached him but what amazed him was the dirty and filthy advertisements that were posted on the back of the mosques and this he disliked. I asked for his co-operation which would certainly enable me to guard against a single mosque being defaced with these advertisements on their walls. He then pointed out four mosques which should receive my attention at once. He described them to me and advised me how to approach the owners and how to do the needful. This was very nice of him. His heart bleeds that these ancient mosques should deteriorate in this manner. Undoubtedly the Majlis-i-Auqaf will do their duty in this matter. We are not going to compete with them. We can assist them. I have pledged myself that so long as I am alive I shall carry on this work and collect funds from day to day and month to month to restore gradually all the ancient mosques in New Delhi.

The four mosques which he pointed out were, first, the mosque in Fair Bazar, the second was in Pindir Road, the third in Cornwallis Road, New Delhi, and the fourth in the middle of Qutab Road about half a mile south of Qutab Road and Sadr Bazar.

I will not take up the time of this House except to say that the Government should accept this Resolution with good grace. Failing that, as my Honourable friend the Deputy Leader of the Muslim League has said, it will not end here but will probably be the beginning of trouble.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan. I must in the beginning take up the second part of my Resolution which deals with the Department of Education, Health and Lands, and in this connection I must thank my Honourable friend, Mr. Tyson, for his very conciliatory speech which he made this morning and I must also thank the Chief Commissioner of Delhi for showing such great sympathy as has been referred to by Mr. Tyson in his speech.

Let me deal with the points which he raises. The first was about the protected monuments. Those mosques which come under the care of the Archaeological Department and the protected monuments do not come under the purview of this Resolution nor have I anything to say about them.

Then, Sir, my Honourable friend objected to the wording in the amendment moved by Seth Yusuf Hatoon in which he said that every Muslim may be allowed to repair the mosque. My Resolution does not go to that extent and I quite agree with my Honourable friend, Mr. Tyson, that the repair should be done under the auspices of the Majlis-i-Auqaf, Delhi. When I say Muslims,

I mean the statutory body which has the authority to look after the Muslims works and I never emphasised that individual Muslims should come forward and put in an application for the repairs and they may probably be wanting in funds. I quite agree with this safeguard and I can assure him that my resolution always considered the same points which he wanted to cover in his speech. All repairs will be done through the Majlis-i-Auqaf and I am glad that my friend Sir Abdul Halim Ghaznavi has also said that in future everything will be done by him or the persons who have been generous enough to subscribe towards this object through the Majlis.

Now my friend Mr. Tyson referred to municipal bye-laws and that applications have to go through several channels. I think I have made it clear in my speech that the repairs or the restoration of the mosques should be allowed immediately provided the applications do not infringe the municipal bye-laws or laws. I can understand the municipal bye-laws and laws coming in where residential houses are concerned with regard to some area being left out, health restrictions, etc. But so far as the architecture of the mosque is concerned, everybody knows what a mosque should look like. I do not want a mosque which will not look like a mosque. My Honourable friend knows and understands quite clearly that a Church must look like a Church. You cannot have a Church built in the form of a square. If a Church of this kind did exist, there must be a steeple and a place for the parson to conduct the prayers, a place for the organ and it must look towards the east. The same applies to the mosque. Now it is known that every mosque has got at least one dome or three domes. It is usual to have three domes but wherever the space is not sufficient, then there is one dome. Then there must be two minarets or four minarets. No mosque can be different to this. Since Shahjahan's period it has become the fashion to build mosques to this type. But for anybody to say that you cannot build a mosque under this style but have it like a square room to suit the modern Delhi architecture, that is a position which I am not prepared to accept and I want to bring it to the notice of my Honourable friend that all objections have been put in by the New Delhi Municipality but I am glad that my Honourable friend says that if I want now to include two *chabutras*, which formerly were refused it will be favourably considered. Formerly I and my late friend Sir Muhammad Yaqub tried to have that mosque enlarged but permission was not granted. After all that mosque was built by villagers, it had no architectural beauty and it was not according to the style of buildings in New Delhi.

My Honourable friend the Member in charge of the Labour Department knows that this Resolution is a consequence of the fall of a mosque in No. 9 Asok Road. I find that some authorities said that if you want to repair the mosque you must build it up again in the same architecture as it was built up originally. Well, Sir, we are poor people. Some mosques, which require repairs, have been originally built by very rich people. The architecture is different, the decoration is so expensive that we cannot afford to pay for it. It is probably not necessary that the repairs should be done in the old style. So it is unnecessary that the same architecture should be kept. Mr. Tyson has referred to this in his speech and if it stands then it might be narrowly construed by those people who have not got the same spirit as he has. Those people may never understand and they have not got the administrative capacity or ability to understand these things in the same manner as he does. Therefore I have said clearly that they should not object to the architecture. I can assure him that it is no intention of mine nor will it be the intention of the Muslims who will restore those mosques to spoil the beauty of any architecture existing there. I would like to observe that if the mosque is built in the Tughlak period I should like to keep it in that style. I would not like to have the monuments and domes of the Tughlak period replaced with that of the Shahjahan period.

New Delhi has no architecture at all. No one would call the ugly looking structures all over New Delhi as any kind of architecture. I wonder if any American or European would ever care to have a look at them. If they come to India it is to see the beauty of the architecture of buildings round about Delhi.

[Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan]

I do not want to mix up the architecture of a mosque with the architecture which you have got for your modern requirements. The elevation of these buildings may be all right for residential or other purposes but the architecture of a mosque is entirely different. Therefore I would like that it should not be insisted upon that the mosque should have a particular elevation. A mosque should be a mosque and nothing else.

Now I come to the other part of the Resolution. I do not know if I am out of order were I to mention my private conversation with my Honourable friend, Dr Ambedkar. His conversation with me was totally different from what he has said in his speech here. I do not know whether he had been influenced by his department on that day when he made his speech. He did not know what injury he was doing to my Resolution. Every objection which he raised I had myself foreseen and had replied to them. I do not want to bind the Government to any particular position. I do not mean to say that if any necessity arises or in an emergency, if a bungalow is lying vacant and an officer who is not a Muslim has to be allotted that bungalow which has within its premises an old mosque, he should not be allotted that bungalow. That is not my position. By all means allot the bungalow temporarily provided you stick to the principle that ordinarily the house will be given to Muslims and the mosque will be treated as mosque.

Mr. Chairman (Mr Abdul Qayyum) The Honourable Member has only two minutes more.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: Another point which my Honourable friend has raised is that a stream of people will not be allowed. In my Resolution I had said that the tenant should not object to servants or visitors.

I must deal with one point rather strongly. We understand that a resolution is a recommendation to the Governor General in Council and the entire responsibility is on the whole of the Council. On issues which vitally concern a big section of the population like the present Resolution it should be the clear duty of the Honourable Muslim Members of the Executive Council to take this matter to the Executive Council. They knew full well what the Resolution was. They were fully aware of the reply of my Honourable friend Dr Ambedkar. These Muslim Members should have taken the matter to the Executive Council and enlightened my Honourable friend Dr Ambedkar, if he did not understand the position properly. Of course Dr Ambedkar can be excused on the ground that he was ignorant of the Muslim sentiments on this matter. But the Muslim Members of the Executive Council have no such excuse, and what were they doing all the time? Perhaps they had not read the Resolution or had been only sticking to their own respective departments and did not care as to what is happening outside.

Mr. Chairman (Mr Abdul Qayyum) The Honourable Member's time is up.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: I therefore commend my Resolution to the House. I am afraid in spite of the very nice appeal made to me by my friend Mr Tyson I cannot accept that appeal. If I agree then I lose my principle. I would have accepted his appeal if the reply from my Honourable friend Dr Ambedkar had been similar. I therefore have to press the Resolution to a division.

Mr. Chairman (Mr Abdul Qayyum) I will first put to vote the amendment moved by Seth Yusuf Abdool Haroon.

The question is

"That for the original Resolution the following be substituted

"That this Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council that in order to protect and keep in proper repairs the mosques situated in New Delhi area, he should be pleased to take the following steps

(a) instruct the Department concerned to allot those bungalows in the compounds of which mosques are situated subject to the stipulation that no obstruction should be offered to their restoration or to the use of such mosques by Muslims for offering prayers therein and

(b) further instruct the Department concerned and the New Delhi Municipal Committee to give all facilities, assistance and necessary legal permits to such Mussalmans as come forward to repair, restore or rebuild any existing mosque in New Delhi area."

Mr. Chairman (Mr Abdul Qayyum) Now, I will put the original Resolution to vote The question is

"That this Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council that, in order to keep in proper repairs and to protect the mosques situated in New Delhi he should be pleased to take the following steps

(a) instruct the Department concerned to allot all those bungalows in the compound of which mosques are situated only to the Muslim employees of the Government, who should be instructed not to obstruct or stop their Muslim servants or visitors from saying prayers in such mosques, and

(b) instruct the Department concerned and the New Delhi Municipal Committee that they should give permission, without delay, on presentation of applications by the Muslims for the repairs of, or restoration to, the old position or rebuilding with some altered designs of mosques situated either in the compound of any Government bungalow or on any place surrounded by Government or Municipal property"

The Assembly divided

11 FS-17

Abdul Ghaani, Maulvi Muhammad
Abdullah Mr H M
Ahar Ali, Mr Muhammad
Choudhury, Mr Muhammad Hussain
Fazal Sait, Mr H A Sathar H
Gulab Singh Piracha, Khan Bahadur Shaikh
Ghurnavi Sir Abdul Halim
Iqbaljee Mr Hossainbhoy A
Ishaqat Ali Khan, Nawabzada Muhammad

Mutaz Sahib Bahadur, Maulvi Syed
Munir M. Muhammad
Nazar Ali, Sir Syed
Nasiruddin Ali Khan, Nawab
Umar Ali Shah Mr
Yusuf Khan, Sir Muhammad
Zafar Ali Khan, Maulana
Zia Uddin Ahmad, Dr Sir

NOES-30

Ahmad Nawaz Khan, Major Nawab Sir
Ambedkar, The Honourable Dr B R
Azizul Hogue, The Honourable Sir M
Bentall, The Honourable Sir Edward
Craze, Sir Olaf
Chandavarkar, Sir Vithal N
Chatterjee, Lt Col Dr J C
Datta Seth Sunder Lal
Datta Dr Sir Ratanji Dinshaw
Datta, The Honourable Sir Ardeshir
Dilpat Singh, Sardar Bahadur Captain
Imam Mr Sayyid Haider
Ismael Alikhan, Kunwer Hajee
Jawahar Singh Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sir
Joshi, Mr D S
Khare, The Honourable Dr N B

Krishnamoorthy, Mr E S A
Kushal Pal Singh Raja Bahadur
Mudhai, The Honourable Dewan Bahadur
Sir A Ramaswami
Mudhe The Honourable Sir Francis
Princ Lall Kureel Mr
Pio Dr V K R V
Rao The Honourable Sir Asoka
Sethna Mr D P
Shoolert, Mr W H
Sir Raj Rao Bahadur N
Srinice Sir George
Sultra Ahmed, The Honourable Sir
Thakur Singh, Capt
Tyson, Mr J D

The motion was negatived

RESOLUTION RE FIFTEEN-YEAR PLAN PREPARED BY CAPITALISTS OF INDIA

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad (United Provinces Southern Divisions Muhammadan Rural) Sir, I beg to move

"That this Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council not to entertain the programme of 15 years' plan prepared by the capitalists of India in the interests of the people of this country"

I had put down one or two points in the preamble of this Resolution which, according to the rules of debate, were removed I said it was in the interests of the cottage industries that I desired to move this resolution and if this plan is accepted then it will be the shortest route to turn India to Bolshevism

Mr N. M. Joshi (Nominated Non-Official) Do you object to that?

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: The Bombay plan, has laid down in para 2 of their report certain conditions precedent (1) it is said that it is assumed that on the termination of the war a National Government will come into existence, (2) that it will be constituted on a federal basis; (3) that the jurisdiction of the Central Government in economic matters will extend over the whole of India, and (4) that there will be a national planning committee under the Central Government which will be responsible for drawing up the plans

Prior to this Bombay plan, Mr Jawaharlal Nehru also drew up a similar

[Dr Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad]

"An essential prerequisite of planning is thus complete freedom and independence for the country and the removal of all external control."

This was a condition precedent which Mr Jawaharlal Nehru put in connection with his plan. Now the Honourable Member today told us that the Government had accepted the object of the 15 years plan. I do not know whether the conditions precedent on which this plan is based have already been accepted by the Government. The Honourable Sir Ardeslur Dalal occupies a double position: he is a signatory of the report and he also accepts it on behalf of the Government of India. Before I develop my argument further, I would like to know whether the conditions precedent have been scrutinised by the Government and if so, whether the conditions of the Government have been accepted by the signatories of the report, and if the signatories of the report have not accepted them, its discussion will serve no purpose. I shall sit down. I want a reply as to whether the conditions precedent have been accepted by the Government or not. There is nothing left in the plan, if we do not accept the condition precedent. The Honourable Member of the Government of India mentions on the floor of this House that the Government of India have accepted the object of this particular plan without accepting the principle on which the plan rests.

Before I develop my arguments there is one thing which I would lay before the economists and financiers in this House. Suppose I do a service and for that service I get one rupee, that one rupee really guarantees certain comforts. If I take this one rupee to the market, then I do not get the comfort of the value of 16 annas but only of five annas. In other words the purchasing power of the rupee I have is only five annas and not 16 annas. Where do the 11 annas go? (An Honourable Member: "Into the pockets of Government men.") Some persons say it is idly due to inflation. I think this is the catchword of the economists, which is not idly understood by the common people. I do not talk in technical phraseology. I talk in simple language. Where do 11 annas go, which I have lost? It goes into the pockets of the middle men, into the pockets of those who deal in the black markets, into the pockets of those who produce these articles and the big merchants. It is distributed all over the place but does not come to me. (An Honourable Member: It goes to the 11 Members of the Executive Council.") I call this loss, creative tax, to borrow the phraseology of this report. What is the value of this creative tax on account of the reduction in the purchasing power of the rupee? We have got the figures supplied in the report. The total income as calculated by Mr Rao and accepted by this Committee, is estimated at about Rs. 2,200 crores. The creative tax which the people of India are paying on this income at the rate of 11 annas per rupee is 1,500 crores per annum. In fact the creative tax is much more as the total income estimated in 1933 has substantially increased in 1944.

Take the case of any peon standing here. For every rupee he pays 11 annas in this creative tax which goes into the pockets of somebody. I am not concerned just now to find who the somebody is. He is now hoping that as soon as the war is over this creative tax will disappear and he will get full 16 annas value for his rupee. The common man undergoes enormous privations and sufferings in order to pay this creative tax to rich men who call it the miseries of war. There is an accumulative wealth on account of this creative tax, whose minimum value I estimate at 6,000 crores. That is the accumulated value of this creative tax during the war period at the rate of 1,500 crores per annum which is calculated at 11 annas per rupee. This does not include war profits which may be in the neighbourhood of 2,000 crores.

Mr. Chairman (Mr Abdul Qayyum). My attention has been drawn to an incident which happened earlier, when the President was presiding. I have the unpleasant duty of drawing the attention of Mr Kailash Bihari Lal to Rule 17(2). Under that Rule, I am afraid, the Honourable Member cannot sit in the Chamber till the close of the day.

Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall (Bhagalpur, Purnea and the Sonthal Parganas Non-Muhammadian) Did the President pass any order of expulsion?

Mr. Chairman (Mr Abdul Qayyum) In order to make sure, I called for the record of the proceedings* and I find that the Honourable President did order the Honourable Member to leave the House and the record confirms it. As Rule 17(2) is very clear, I am afraid I have no option but to ask the Honourable Member to leave the Chamber.

Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall. What I heard him saying was

Mr. Chairman (Mr Abdul Qayyum) It is very difficult to enter into argument. I have satisfied myself—I was not here at the time the incident happened and therefore I called for the record—that the Honourable President did ask the Honourable Member to leave and Rule 17(2) is quite clear.

Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall I do not dispute the rule.

Mr. Chairman (Mr Abdul Qayyum) The Honourable Member will co-operate with the Chair by leaving the Chamber.

Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall. So far as the present Chair is concerned, I am clearly in a mood to co-operate but I still maintain my contention that I am leaving the Chamber not in obedience to the order of the Chair under Rule 17 but as a protest against highhandedness and I make mention of this fact that this conduct was not worthy of respect.

(Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall then left the Chamber.)

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad. The object of the whole plan is laid down in Section 36 of the report, to increase the aggregate income from 1,733 crores to 5,300 crores.

Now, the object of the whole report is to triple the income. I like to ask—does this tripling of the income mean tripling the present purchasing power of the people? If this is not guaranteed, Finance Member can triple the income over night. The Finance Member can issue an Ordinance saying—whatever you find 1 rupee, add 3 rupees. Then you increase the income three times at once. (An Honourable Member: "Do you mean to say that the Finance Member is a juggler?") If the purchasing power of the rupee is not to be considered and you simply want to triple the income then it can be done by Ordinance. We do not require any plan. The Finance Member may issue an Ordinance and the income of the whole country is tripled. I say it is not the way to do it. The real object is that the purchasing power of individual should increase three times of what it was before the war.

Now, money, as admitted by the report, is a measuring rod and hence it must have a fixed length. A measuring rod must not be like India rubber which you can go on stretching to any length you like. Then it is not a measuring rod. If money is a measuring rod, it must have a definite purchasing power. The report has given a list of the food-stuff that a person can purchase from Rs. 65. They say that every person in India should have every day cereal 16 ounces, pulses 8 ounces, sugar 2 ounces, vegetables 6 ounces, fruits 2 ounces, fats 5 ounces, milk 5 ounces or eggs, meat and fish. This is for the whole population of India, including the villages. May I ask if any one can feed on this menu on Rs. 65 per annum, unless the purchasing power of Rs. 65 is substantially increased. It is also mentioned in the report in para. 13 that the cloth will be sold at 8½ annas per yard. Therefore, the condition precedent, before you talk of tripling the income, is that you fix the purchasing power of the rupee or, as the

*The record referred to by Mr. Chairman (Mr. Abdul Qayyum) is the Reporter's copy of the order passed by the President in the morning sitting before it was corrected by him. That order and the subsequent proceedings are as follows.

"**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdul Rahim) I find the Honourable Member is obstructing the proceedings of the House. I must ask him to leave the House, if he persists in this."

Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall. I am willing to take the extreme penalty imposed by you. But I am not going to submit like a school boy to your temper. I leave the House under protest.

(Then the Honourable Member, Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall left the House.)"

For the report of the relevant proceedings as collected by the Honourable the President when it was submitted to him after the House had adjourned for the day, see page 225 ante—*Ed. of D.*

[Dr Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad]

economists say, you must stop inflation and what I say is that you must stop this creative tax which you are now imposing on everybody in India. Unless this is done first, it is idle to proceed further.

I strongly object to the method of approach in this particular report. What are the problems before India? The problems before India are two. In the first place, there must be employment for everybody. Now, the report does not touch this question at all. They think that probably by creating a few key industries the whole problem of unemployment will be solved. They ought not to forget that after the war, the problem of employment will be very acute. A large number of persons now serving in fighting forces and in auxiliary offices will be out of employment. They must have some kind of employment and the report does not take into account the new situation which is bound to arise. What is the use of a few key industries when there are so many people without employment? What is the use in making all these magnates still richer when the bulk of the people will be dying of hunger? The conditions precedent of all planning, on which the prosperity of the country will depend are two. One is to stabilise the purchasing power of the rupee. Secondly, you should make out a plan so that there may be employment for everybody. Both these important questions are left out. How can you have any plan of future reconstruction of India by neglecting these two fundamental principles? What is the principle underlying this report? They want one hundred thousand crores of our credit to be handed over to them so that they may purchase the machinery. They want to stabilise their existing profits. Cull a spade a spade. We may be fools but we are not ignorant fools. We understand something about it. The whole object behind the plan is that one hundred thousand crores which is our sterling credit in England should be earmarked for the purchase of the key machinery. And I understand that action has already been taken. They have already selected four key industries, namely, sulphuric acid, caustic soda, artificial silk and aniline dye industries. They have selected their magnates through whom all these things would be given, so that you will make richer those people who are already rich. Whenever I talk of stabilisation, I talk of the stabilisation of the money, of the purchasing power of the rupee. But whenever the industrialists talk of stabilisation, they mean the stabilisation of profits. The thing is this that during the war they have got a certain standard of profit and they want to stabilise this profit even after the war. This is really the object which they have in mind. The whole plan is really drawn up with this object that whatever profits they have been making during the war ought to continue even when the war is over. I will read out passages from their own report to show that this is the case.

The other thing which is conspicuous by its absence in this report is the question of the agriculture. We know that 92 per cent of the people of India live on agriculture. What has this report provided for the agriculturist except shedding crocodile tears for them? They have not entered into the real question. They ought to know the population of India and take into account the fact that our population increases by 5 millions every year. So, in 15 years time the population will increase by 75 millions. Have you got enough land in India to provide living for everybody? This is the problem which ought to have been tackled. I have got before me the figures of the agriculturist's budget which is drawn up by a person who knows something about agriculture. For want of time I will not give all its details and will only give its result. He says that if a person has one wife and two children, in all four persons of the family, and has got $12\frac{1}{2}$ acres of land, then he just makes both ends meet. His income will be Rs. 353 and his expenditure will be Rs. 351. If you want $12\frac{1}{2}$ acres for a family of four, then you can easily calculate how much more land you will require after 15 years when the population will be increased by 75 millions. Now, this question ought to have been tackled but it has not been tackled in the report. Nothing is suggested about the purchase of Zamindari rights. Country will be more contented if our internal savings of about 8,000 crores are used in purchasing Zamindari rights.

Sir, there is one other point which is very often neglected and even my

Honourable friend who is in charge of labour probably does not realise the magnitude of that problem. Whenever we talk of an agriculturist, a resident of a village, one always understands that he has got some land to cultivate, but 40 per cent of the population in the villages have got no land to cultivate. They are landless tenants. Nothing has been provided for them. This class of people have been neglected altogether and their number is very large. If you make special arrangement for these village labourers by giving them additional work in the form of cottage industry their condition will be considerably improved.

Mr. Chairman (Mr Abdul Qayyum) I am afraid the Honourable Doctor has left his seat. He is standing in the gangway.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: I am by my books. This is the class of people whom this report absolutely neglects and I think something ought to be done for them.

Now, the other question is about the cottage industries. That has also been neglected altogether. Take the case of one particular industry, the textile industry. 90 per cent people in the textile industry are supported by cottage industries and only 10 per cent are supported by the mills. Let me see what these big manufacturers are doing for the improvement of cottage industries. How much yarn do they supply to these cottage industries? Will the Honourable Member tell me on the floor of the House or any of his Colleagues if the mills will agree that half of the yarn which they produce will be handed over to the cottage industry and only half of the yarn will be spun by the mills? This is the only way in which they can help the cottage industries, and, it is a test question of their integrity. The textile magnates are not

prepared to help the cottage industry by giving more yarn. They reserve the entire yarn for their own use. It is the duty of the representatives of the people, who are sitting on these Benches, to see that the interest of the cottage industry is not ignored. If you destroy the cottage industry, then you really deprive a large number of people of their living. If these people are thrown out of employment, they will be a great danger to the country. Mr D C Driver in his presidential addresses said about giant India

"The giant is now awake and hungry, we will have to feed him and find work for him. We cannot feed him on slogans and eloquent emotional appeals. India now wants work and food to fill its stomach, not so much eloquence and motion to stir its heart. If we do not give to the giant food and work the giant will destroy our capitalist system, devour our half baked democracy, and rush the country into the chaos of uncharted communism of imitative, immature experiments before the country is ready for them."

This is the opinion of a very experienced man. If you leave the people alone and do not make any provision for their food and employment, then you will repeat the experiments of Russia. That is a point which has got to be remembered. Therefore the problem of all problems, before the Government today is not so much to get machinery for the people who are already rich, but the problem is to make people contented and to get employment for demobilised soldiers and retrenched civilians from auxiliary offices.

The next point is about the system *per capita*. It is contemplated that *per capita* will be Rs 195 in future and that it is Rs 65 now. It will be three times afterwards. This is a false calculation. Suppose Mr Birla has an income of six crores per year. Then how many of these people whose *per capita* income according to your calculation will be Rs 195 after fifteen years will go without food? This calculation of *per capita* allowing some people to have crores per annum at the expense of other people, is giving a false picture of the economic position of the country. This is just like the analogy of the person who went to a river. He saw the river was 10 feet deep, then he added the height of all the people who accompanied him in the carriage party and then came to the conclusion that they could simply walk over the river. This method of allowing some people to have income in crores and making some other people grovel in poverty and misery and calculating the average *per capita* income of the country is the most unscientific and uneconomic method of calculation. It has already denuded the wealth of the country. If you want to calculate *per*

[Dr Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad]

capita income, then you must lay down the minimum and the maximum income for each man, just like the Congress Government did of fixing Rs. 500. If any person gets more, the excess should be put into the public funds. This is the only method of calculating *per capita* income. Our industrialists are not interested in the stabilisation of prices. They are interested only in stabilising their profits. They are not interested in finding employment for everybody so long as they get labour for themselves, indentured or free labour. They are not interested in the development of cottage industries nor in any problem of employment.

As regards the object of the plan, I will read from the Report itself.

By giving priority to basic industries in our programme of development and by using our sterling balances in the initial stages for importing the necessary plant, machinery and technical experts it is however, possible to curtail our requirements of external finance."

This has really let the cat out of the bag. One more point. They are going to finance from 'created' money. What does this mean? The Finance Member should print notes in large number for circulation. The moment it puts more notes in circulation, the people talk of inflation and the prices will go up. This is a conundrum which can be solved between Sir Aideshrin Dutt, the Finance Member and Prof. Ranga sitting together. Sir, I move.

Mr. Chairman (Mr. Abdul Qayyum) Resolution moved.

'That the Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council not to entertain the programme of 15 years' plan prepared by the capitalists of India in the interests of the people of this country.'

There are certain amendments to this Resolution. They can all be moved one by one and after they are put from the Chair, discussion will proceed on all of them. The first one is in the name of Mr. Krishnamachari.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari (Paiyore *cum* Trichinopoly Non-Muhammad in Rural) Sir, I move.

'That for the original Resolution, the following be substituted.

'That this Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council that in view of the fact that several plans for the post-war economic and industrial development of India, such as the Bombay plan, the Ravi plan, Visveswaraiah plan, have been put before the public, the Government do examine these plans and formulate at an early date their conclusions regarding the set up of post-war economic and industrial development of this country.'

Mr. Chairman (Mr. Abdul Qayyum) Amendment Moved.

'That for the original Resolution the following be substituted.

'That this Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council that in view of the fact that several plans for the post-war economic and industrial development of India, such as the Bombay plan, the Ravi plan, Visveswaraiah plan, have been put before the public, the Government do examine these plans and formulate at an early date their conclusions regarding the set up of post-war economic and industrial development of this country.'

I have now put the amendment. But I find that the next amendment of Mr. Azhar Ali is really no amendment at all. It is merely a repetition of the Resolution, and the clause at the end of the Resolution demands non-acceptance of the Bombay plan, and in fact the so-called amendment of Mr. Azhar Ali contains all the arguments in favour of the Resolution. That is really no amendment at all. I therefore hold that this amendment is out of order.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: The amendment says that in place of the original Resolution, substitute this.

Mr. Chairman (Mr. Abdul Qayyum) It is merely an argument in favour and in support of the original Resolution.

Mr. T. S. Avinashlingam Chettiar (Salem and Coimbatore *cum* North Arcot Non-Muhammadan) Sir, I move.

'That all the words after the words 'Governor General in Council' be omitted and the following be substituted, namely:

'that an elected Committee of this House consisting of not more than fifteen Members be appointed for the purpose of considering the several plans for post-war economic development of India agricultural and industrial with instructions to report to this House.'

Mr. Chairman (Mr. Abdul Qayyum) Amendment moved.

'That all the words after the words 'Governor General in Council' be omitted and the following be substituted, namely:

'that an elected Committee of this House consisting of not more than fifteen Members be appointed for the purpose of considering the several plans for post-war economic development of India agricultural and industrial with instructions to report to this House.'

Mr. T. S. Avinashlingam Chettiar: Sir, I have heard the speech of my

learned friend Dr Sir Zia Uddin. He is a Wrangler and a Senior Wrangler, but I think constructive suggestions are more helpful than mere negative opinions. So in moving this amendment I should like to put before this House a few suggestions about post-war economic, industrial and agricultural development of this country. Firstly, we think that any scheme for the agricultural development of this country must have as its basis certain considerations. The first is that it must be mainly and entirely from the point of view of the masses of this country, from the point of view of the poorest people of this country, and the sole aim and objective of the plan should be to raise their status economically and in every other way. Secondly, if it is to attain this object it must succeed in giving them greater purchasing power. By purchasing power I do not mean its calculation in rupees, annas and pies. To-day by inflation the cost of everything has gone up. The labourer in the fields who was getting five annas before is getting Rs 1-4-0 today, but in effect he is getting much less than he was getting before. And so what we mean by purchasing power is not inflation and greater money but greater comforts in life for the ordinary man, something more to eat which he does not have today, two square meals a day, and all the essential requisites for a good, decent and full existence. Thirdly, it should see that it does not create big industrial establishments which go to make a rich man richer and a poor man poorer. In our opinion, in the opinion of the Congress, big industrial establishments like automobiles, aircraft, machine tools, chemicals and others must be State-owned. It is our view that these establishments must be run with mainly national ideals, from the point of view of the development of this country as a whole and not for profit-making and profit making. We do think that private enterprise must have a fair share in the industry and commerce of this country, but it should never be at the expense of the ordinary consumer, of the poor man in the fields and in the factories. Fourthly, it should aim at the development of the country as a whole and must be suited to the traditions and genius of the country.

Fifthly, the development that is aimed at in any plan of reconstruction in this country should not be merely industrial but must also be mainly agricultural. And the reason for this is not far to seek. More than 80 per cent of our people are dependent upon agriculture and unless we can make them produce better and unless we can make them get a fair distribution of the wealth of this country, all our planning will come to nought and it will be a tragedy. So we feel that any scheme worth the name and worth the support of this House and the country must have these five requisites as its basic principles.

I do not want to go into the matter whether the Bombay plan as it has been called satisfies these principles. It is a mere suggestion, as a matter of fact I will congratulate the authors of the Bombay plan. I do not talk about its merits, but they have put forth something before us which has provoked people to think. This has brought other plans into the field. Other people also have got to think about it and even the Government of India have actively begun to think about it. The Bombay plan is only one of the plans which they must take into consideration. If they think that it satisfies these principles, accept it so far as it goes, if it does not satisfy these principles scrap it. So I am not talking about any particular plan. There are many plans, as has been pointed out in Mr. Krishnamachari's amendment,—the Roy plan, the Bombay plan, the Vysveswaraya plan and my friend Prof. Ranga suggests, the Agarwal plan, and a host of other things which any intelligent person with constructive ideas can yet put forward. And our recommendation is that people on whom there is responsibility for planning for this great country should go into all these plans without any prejudice and without any favouritism. Take whatever is good from the point of view of the people of this country and reject whatever is bad from the point of view of the masses of this country.

The second point mentioned in this amendment is this, who should make these plans? It is a very important matter. Government can very well claim that they are in possession of the facts, they are in possession of the experts,

[Mr T S Avinashilingam Chettiar]

they have the material, the time, the money and the finance, and therefore they should do it. I want to point out, and Government know it well, that this is not a Government which is going to survive after this war. The people who are going to work it are different from the people who are governing today. It is the people who will have to work the plans that should make the plans. And to this end we suggest what has been suggested in this amendment, that a committee of this House should consider these plans. There are other reasons why I think Government, constituted as it is today, are not in a position and cannot undertake the responsibility of framing these plans. To begin with—and they know it and we know it and every section of the country knows it—they have been looked upon, and rightly so, with suspicion. From past history and experience it is well known that at the back of everything that they propose and profess to do for the people of this country lies the idea of exploitation, the good of the foreign Government and the foreign people. And naturally we wish that future plans for this country should be made by such people about whose motives there will be no room for suspicion. Secondly, we feel that the Government, constituted as it is today, cannot resist the influence of my Honourable friends there. I mean not only the European Group but the constituencies which they represent, that is, the ordinary British industrialists. Many people in Britain, the merchants and ruling classes, believe that India is still and should be kept reserved for their exploitation. I feel, Sir, and rightly, and Honourable Members if they speak out their hearts to me will also agree, that they are not able to resist these influences as well as they may sometimes wish. I do not want to put them in awkward positions. For that reason they are not fit to make a plan like this.

Thirdly, they are not in touch with the people of this country. The people in Delhi are the most unreal people I have met. In no sense do they represent the people of this country. The ordinary man of this country is a poor man suffering untold misery. He gets rotten rice if he gets anything at all. The war has made terrible inroads on him. There they suffer from want of food, but here they suffer from indigestion. How can they make plans for a people they do not know?

Fourthly, by their training and association, they have lost touch with the genius of the people. They do not know what the people want. We therefore feel that the Government constituted as it is today, is not fit, is not suited to the great task of planning the post-war reconstruction for this country. I do not mean any disparagement to any particular individual but the system as it is cannot move in one direction. We have come into touch with the Provincial Governments. We have come into touch with the Central Government. When they want to start forces of oppression, it is done at once, but if you want to do something good it takes years and years to put it into action. Only today I heard from one of the front Benches that such measures move very slowly. We therefore propose that a Committee of this House should be constituted for this purpose. Advisedly a Committee of this House does not mean that there are not any officials in it. As a matter of fact we welcome some of them because they may be in touch with certain factors with which we may not be in touch, but it must be mainly composed of non-official elected Members who represent wide constituencies who are in touch with the people of this country, and who know the sufferings of this country and who know where the shoe pinches with the poor people of this country.

I feel that planning is necessary. There is no doubt about that. The days of *laissez faire* are over and these are days of planning and perfect planning. Mere planning on paper will not do. It must be backed up by the people of this country. Only then will plans mature and come into action. Mere decisions from armchairs in committee rooms and secretariats come to nothing. If you want to get the co-operation of the people of this country, if you want to have the real backing of the people of this country, if you want that these plans should be worked for the good of the people of this country, if must be made by representatives of the people of this country. It must be

made from the point of view of the people of this country, and later on when I hope a National Government will come, it must be worked by the representatives of the people of this country.

I therefore commend my amendment to the acceptance of this House.

Sir Vithal N Chaudavarkar (Bombay Millowners' Association Indian Commerce) I rise to speak on the subject with considerable amount of reluctance because I know that in a certain section of the House the very word "Bombay" is anathema to them and the Bombay industrialists are particularly in the bad books of my friend the gallant and learned Vice-Chancellor of the Aligarh University. I am not here as an apologist of Bombay because there is no need for me to apologise for our existence or our eminence in the industrial life of this country. I am here to speak on certain aspects of this plan which has been pioneered not by the Bombay people alone. You will find the name of Mr Birla, a leading industrialist of Calcutta. You will also find the name of Sir Shri Ram, the leading industrialist of this city, and knowing as I do the great work done by the authors of the plan I can tell this House that these two persons have pulled their weight in the formulation of the proposals that are known popularly as the Bombay Plan.

This is just the time that a study of the problems of this country should have been made but not the time to give effect to any plans. We are living in very unreal times. The Honourable the Finance Member has found it very difficult to control the economy of the country which had gone astray as the result of lack of control in the earlier stages of the war. He has done his best. Although I may not agree with him in all matters, I think we can say that certain measures which he has taken during the last 18 months have helped the Government to take control of the situation, not to the extent to which we would have liked, but certainly to a considerable extent.

[At this stage, Mr President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) resumed the Chair.]

Now this plan has been prepared by certain persons connected with some of the biggest industries in the country. So, may I take this opportunity of congratulating His Excellency the Viceroy in having the courage to invite one of the authors of the plan to join his Council of Ministers? I do not think it means that the Government of India have accepted all the principles underlying the plan but it does mean that the Government of India are very serious and sincere in their efforts to promote and prepare a scheme to which, when a National Government when it comes into being, will be able to give effect.

I quite agree with my friends on the other side that without the existence of a National Government it will be very difficult for any Government with the best of intentions to overhaul the economy of the country. In any country the first fundamental requirement is that the Government of the day must be responsible to the people of the country and must have their confidence. I do not think that any of my friends here on the Front Bench are either responsible to the people or have the confidence of the people. But I am prepared to admit that they have undertaken a very heavy responsibility in accepting office when the majority parties are not willing to take office. They are doing their best to serve the interests of the country and with that motive my friend Sir Ardeshir Dalal has taken on the onerous responsibility of the Minister of Planning and Development, not because he thought he had confidence of the country, but because he felt; I am sure when called upon by His Excellency the Viceroy, that he could not shirk that call and he has come and joined the front bench of this House so that he can have something prepared which can form a basis for action by a National Government if and when such a Government comes into existence.

Now, Sir, I come now to my learned and gallant friend over there. What is this plan? It is only the basis for a plan. I believe more literature is going to come on this subject and more concrete proposals will be placed

[Sir Vithal N Chandavalkar] before this country. As I read the plan, it is more or less a recital of the objectives, not a plan with definite proposals. With those objectives as a basis I think the authors are going to put forward their proposals for the consideration of the country.

It has been said that the plan would make the rich richer and the poor poorer. I do not think there is any warrant for such an assertion. On the contrary, the very fact that the authors have approached the whole problem of planning from the point of view of the requirements of the population as a whole indicates their anxiety to reduce the poverty of the country. They want to raise the standard of life. We all know that the mainstay of this country are the agriculturists. At the meeting of the Tripartite Conference held in 1943 when the Honourable the Labour Member came forward with the proposals for social security it was urged by us, the industrialists, that unless the agriculturists were included such an enquiry would be incomplete and I actually moved an amendment that within the scope of the enquiry of the Rege Committee agricultural labour should be included. But the Honourable the Labour Member thought that my amendment was outside the scope of the Conference and ruled it out of order. He, however, gave me an assurance that he would move the proper authorities to conduct a similar enquiry for agricultural labour. At the meeting of the Conference held last week I asked him whether anything had been done and he promised to let me know what steps have been taken in that direction.

Sir, we are all aware that the agriculturists form the mainstay of the economy of this country. What happened in 1930-37 when the agriculturists' condition was very depressed? We could not sell our goods and the depression in the agricultural industry was reflected in the depression in all industries, because our main buyer had no purchasing power. It is in the interests of the country, or if you would like to say so from a purely selfish point of view, taking a long range view of things, that we were anxious that Government and every one of us should see that the purchasing power of our best buyers, the agriculturists, is increased. I think that point has been met by my friends who have propounded this plan known as the Bombay Plan.

The next criticism is that the plan is the outcome of an unholy alliance—I think it was Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad who said it outside the House—between the Indian and foreign capitalists. The plan itself on page 47 (Clause 82) makes it clear that foreign capital would only be accepted if it is not accompanied by political influence or interference by foreign vested interests. The reaction of the organs of British Capitalist interest also does not seem to bear out this suspicion. On March 11 1941 the *Economist* (London) touched the plan as follows:

"The plain fact is that, knowing industry to be the basis of modern power and national independence, they have decided in the nearest way, that India can be made into a Great Power by 1960 by large scale industrialisation. In this way they are led into a kind of economic chauvinism that would throw away most of the benefits of foreign investment in Indian development, in order to cap political with economic independence."

Then, later on, on March the 25th the *Economist* partially retracted from this position but it again stressed its objection as follows:

"It is not true that, as was said in our note, it definitely advocates a policy of self-sufficiency and high protection. But it is true that several sentences place much emphasis upon the need to be as independent as possible of foreign imports, especially of capital goods."

You cannot say that it is an unholy alliance between Indian industrialists and foreign capital.

Then, Sir, there is a fear in some quarters and that fear has been strengthened by the acceptance of office by Sir Ardeshr Dalal, that the assumption that only a National Government can give effect to this plan is merely an eyewash and that the authors want the scheme to be given effect to forthwith. I do not think that that is a fair criticism of the authors of the plan. They have again and again emphasised that the essential condition for the successful execution of any development plan is the existence of a National Government but because there is no National Government it does not mean that we

should remain absolutely idle. It is only with a view to preparing the ground for the National Government it and when it comes into being that these seven or eight leading men of India have set their shoulders to the solution of the problem and for that I think they deserve the thanks of the country.

Mr. Bhulabhai J. Dasa (Bombay Northern Division, Non-Muhammadian Rural) So that you get the best of both the worlds

Sir Vithal N. Chandavarkar: You do that when you form, as you have done in this House, temporary party alliances. I am not ashamed of it, provided I do it in ethical or moral methods. My ambition, in fact it ought to be the ambition of every one of my countrymen, is that we must make the best bargain out of every thing. Because good bargains were dropped or opportunities were given up that we are in the present mess.

The next criticism is that the plan would give no room for provincial autonomy or for regional self-government. Probably the reason for this fear in the minds of certain people is because this plan contemplates the existence of a fairly strong Central Government which would control the whole economy of the country and see that it is put on a proper basis. Probably the recent political controversies that are going on in the country are responsible for this opposition to the plan, which presupposes the existence of a Central Government. I ask my friends, without going into any political controversies, whether anybody who is interested in the welfare of the country, if he wants to think out a plan for the future development of the country, can think of plans province by province. The whole trouble in this country is that controls have failed, because the Central Government finds it difficult to direct the provinces to do certain things. If the Central Government had taken control of the food situation at an earlier stage there would have been no famine in Bengal, at any rate it would not have been felt to the same extent by the people at it was actually felt. It was only after the Central Government came into the picture that the situation has been brought, to a certain extent, under control. If one were to forget his political predilections, can he doubt that any future development of the country is possible in the economic field, unless the planning is done on a national basis? Each province will have its own problems to solve but the main planning must be done on a national basis and not on a provincial basis.

Sir, my time is nearly up and I do not want to take the time of the House, because there are a large number of speakers on this question. But I do want to urge one consideration before this House. Whenever we discuss problems of this nature, it is not so much to arrive at definite conclusions as to provoke people into thinking on the problems. Government have proved their sincerity by appointing perhaps the best man fitted for this job in the whole country, who at considerable personal sacrifice has joined the front Bench. Our attitude in the circumstances ought to be one of helpfulness. We should all tell him "Go ahead with your plans. We in the Assembly of course have the right to criticise your plans according to our lights. But we wish you God speed and God bless you. Please do something for balancing the economy of this country."

Mr. Muhammad Nauman (Patna and Chota Nagpur cum Orissa Muhammadian) Sir, I rise to support the motion as moved by my friend, Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad. I do not want to dilate at length on the Bombay Plan as the last speaker himself had made it clear that the scheme has not been out fully as yet. It is more in the form of the objective than any working scheme which is embodied in the plan. We representing the Muslims are opposed to the very principle of it as it envisages a central and unitary government. This is the political consideration and I will also examine from consumers point of view the details of financial effect of this plan. Sir Chandavarkar who has spoken just before me has tried to say that the control and other efforts of Central Government could not be successful because there exists some sort of provincial autonomy in this country who did not do what they were asked to do. I wish to say that whatever success was achieved in the matter of

[Mr Muhammad Nauman]

control was due to the co-operation of the provinces in their own interests, the control was defeated by that very group of capitalists who are the authors of the Bombay plan, whose interest it was not to have any kind of control, who thrived on black markets, who wanted that the country should be left to its own fate and that they should make hay while the sun shines. I am sorry to have to make public this secret and I would just like to point out who are the authors of the so-called Bombay plan. They are industrialists of this country. What are their credentials? What is their past history? How have they behaved so far with the consumers of this country? Of course India has not been industrialised to any reasonable extent, but even to the little extent it has been, I am sorry to say that those industries were never willing to repay the obligation due to the consumers of this country and to repay any part of that contribution which the consumers of this country had been made to sacrifice for a period of over twenty years. The Tatas thrived on a subsidy from this country, the sugar industry and the textile industry were made to exist, not by any achievement of their skill, these industries were not capable of selling at world parity prices—they could not have competed with the world markets—but by the contribution in the form of protective tariff that was made by the 400 million people of this country to see that those industries were established by consumer's sacrifice, and what happened? It made the rich richer, it made a few capitalists richer—may be a hundred people, may be two hundred, may be a thousand, and it gave a living wage to another 10,000 or 20,000 or perhaps a lakh or two of the skilled and unskilled labour. But the contribution was made by 400 millions of people for over 20 years and the estimated value would be about rupees two hundred crores per year. Sugar could be imported into India from Java at Rs 8-8-0 cif (insurance and freight) per maund, but the Indian consumer was to contribute Rs 9-8-0 per maund for the Indian sugar industry and was compelled to buy at Rs 11 or above Indian sugar per maund. That was a direct contribution in order to make the industry exist, and cost for the good of a few of this country. There was an obligation on the part of those industries to repay consumers in times of prosperity, when industrialists could make only reasonable profit, but they did not do so. When the time came, sugar syndicate was brought into existence, when control was about to be introduced, we all know the way in which this was opposed by industries. So, I am definitely opposed to any sort of planning by this capitalist section of people. Mr Birla may be a friend of mine, many of the authors of this plan are intimately known to me—I myself belong to the Muslim Chamber of Commerce in Calcutta and personally I come from that section which favours plan to some extent, but as a representative of the people I have got to make my position very clear, that the industries in this country have only got to exist for the good of the majority of its people and they have got to exist on the world parity prices and have got to exist with the full co-operation of the consumers in this country. This Government is not at all competent to come up with any such plan at the moment constituted as it is. The mere fact that Sir Ardeshir Dalal has been associated with the Government of India and that compliments have been paid to him for bringing out some sort of plan, shall not convince anybody in any part of the world that they are ultimately useful for the masses or the great majority of the people. We have had sad experience in the past. Are we not going to dislodge the foreign capital from this country? The last speaker, Sir Chandavarkar, said there is no unholy alliance between foreign capitalist and Indian capitalist. May not be now. But in practice it will be so. Do you want that an industry like that of Batas should be established to stifle down our old shoe industries? Do you want similar bodies of foreigners from England and America to come out here and establish their industries in combination with Indian capitalists and we to give them all sorts of preference so that they may stifle down cottage industries and take their contribution from the 400 millions of starved people in this country? Do you want that? The whole thing is being misunderstood and

a wrong interpretation is being given to the plan. These good people who are the authors of the Bombay plan can by no means claim to be the well-wishers of this country. By no means can it be shown by their conduct in the past that they have done anything for the uplift of the country. By no means can they say they had not grudged even to give living wages to their labour. Mr. Joshi will bear me out how the industrialists treat the labour and that in how many cases a strike had to be met by force, every moment there were chances of strike, every where the labourers were working under the worst possible conditions—be it in Tatas or be it the Ahmedabad mill-owners or be it the sugar mill-owners. I know these matters. I had unfortunately to associate myself with one labour organisation. Mr. Bari an M.L.A. of Bihar came and told me what was happening in 1937, 1938 and in 1942 in Tatas. Sir Ardeshr Dalal knows in his own conscience how he has treated the labour there. He knows it too well. Now to ask us to contribute and establish industries of that nature in this country with high tariff preferences and with all the contributions by our own people is something which at least I, as a representative of the people and as one knowing some of the conditions in the country, will not be a party to.

I certainly congratulate my friend Mr. Chettiar who has said that if at all a plan is to be drawn up, if at all we have got to get busy with post-war-development scheme, we should have a sort of committee of this House associated with representatives of other Legislatures from the different provinces, who can sit together and I do not mind if you associate those members also who are the authors of the Bombay plan, let them explain, let them come with their own credentials, let them come with their history and say what they have done so far and what they propose to do in future. There can be no more exploitation allowed in this country. It was the exploitation of the foreigner in earlier days of the past, and now it is the exploitation by a few people of their country. I will not be a party to this fraud on the consumers of this country. As Sir Chandavarkar has said, the whole scheme is not out and I do not propose to criticise it. Industry by industry. I will not even touch the question of the sterling balances, the utilisation and the importation of machinery or otherwise. The time will come and then you will probably not find this country wanting in the necessary brain and the necessary intellect and the necessary sacrifice to give you the right plan at the right time. But I have no doubt that the entire purpose of the Bombay plan is sinister in itself and we will not be a party to this fraud of false development. We are very sorry, if Sir Ardeshr Dalal has been associated with this Government because of that plan, I think it is a reflection on the choice. I think for his own intelligence, for his own great capacity and his valuable experience, if he is associated with the Government of India all well and good, but if there is the idea that his association with this Government is because of that plan certainly I should think it is a reflection on the choice that has been made. I am not casting any reflection at all on Sir Ardeshr Dalal. He is a very capable man and may well deserve it, he is a most intelligent man and I take it he is a practical man who understands all these things, but at the same time he should not be associated with this plan, to say that he has been associated with this Government, because he was one of the originators of this plan is something which I hope will not be made a case of by anybody. At least I want to understand from Sir Ardeshr Dalal himself that he is here because of himself, not because of anything else or anybody else, not because of any plan or scheme. He certainly could have envisaged many other plans—probably he is capable of producing a better plan in the real interest of the country and in the real interest of the masses. He knows their condition. But I have no doubt in my mind that to say that the industries should be given an upper hand in planning the whole thing, and that the agriculturists and the cottage industries interests should not have any say but be subordinate to them, is something which at least I cannot accept for one minute.

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And I would only impress on this House that the plain as it is and the object which it envisages, such as one Central Government,—I denounce it and denounce it strongly from this platform. With these few remarks, I sit down.

Mr. Sami Vencatachalam Chetty (Madras Indian Commerce) Knowing as we do that the Government were not committed to any particular plan, not even the Bombay plan, and that they are considering several plans, besides promulgating their own plan, it seems to me that much of the criticism that has been levelled against the Government by my friend Mr Nauman misses the target. I appreciate the remarks of my Honourable friend Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad, though some of them are characterised by a good deal of prejudice against the Bombay industrialists and though they are the outcome of an incomplete study of the Bombay plan. The authors of the Bombay plan, we must admit, are modest enough to acknowledge that their plan is not complete, that they merely throw out, as they themselves call it, a plan for the consideration of the country and for provoking thought in the minds of people for a post-war reconstruction scheme. In fact, individual Honourable Members of the Government have heroically stated that the country was missing the bus by not formulating plans for post-war reconstruction, that there was no use of mere destructive criticism and that the Government would welcome any proposals for post-war reconstruction. That was the burden of their speeches. Some of us desisted from making any definite proposals, because we knew that behind those utterances there was no strength and that the real object was that the attention of the country might be diverted from the actual politics to what may be called constructive economics. However, the industrialists of this country, while they are national minded and while they are imbued with patriotic fervour, would also like to meet the criticism of Government and would not allow Government to indulge in criticising the country for not proposing a plan or not making out a plan for post-war reconstruction. I should think—I am not in their confidence that that was the object with which they have ushered this plan and I think their attempt has been fully justified by the number of plans that have followed that plan, so much so that even the Government have thought it necessary, at least as a sort of complacency, to appoint one of the authors of that scheme as a Member of the Executive Council in charge of the Post-War Reconstruction Department and collect information or make out a scheme for post-war reconstruction. I think to that extent we ought to be grateful to the authors of the Bombay plan. There may be some in the Muslim League who are opposed to the Bombay plan on account of the objectives of that plan and also, what is more important, on account of political reasons and the Central Unitary form of Government envisaged there seems to be more an anathema to them than the object of the plan itself. There are many outside the Muslim League who do not see eye to eye with or who do not agree with the Bombay plan in all its details. In fact, my Honourable friend who spoke before me from these benches, Mr Avnashilingam Chettiar, has made it plain that the objects of the plan needed for any economic reconstruction are quite different from those which have been envisaged in the Bombay plan. They may be supplementary or they may be complementary but still the Bombay plan has not met the real want of the country but on that account it does not seem to be fair to reject that plan altogether. It ought to be one of the plans to be considered. Every one of us seems to be agreed that unless a National Government is formed, there is no chance of any plan being successful in this country. I quite agree but it will take a long time for a National Government to be formed and do you expect the National Government to start planning immediately after it is formed. We shall be losing valuable time if we wait till the formation of the National Government and till that government prepares schemes and executes them. We therefore suggest, in the amendment proposed by my friend Mr Avnashilingam Chettiar, that you might form a sort of informal National Government by associating elected representatives of this House with you even in the early

stages and ask it to formulate a plan. Let not that plan be tainted by a merely official approach. You must seek the co-operation and assistance of non-official members even in the very early stages. Do not say that you asked for co-operation and we spurned it. It is customary for the Government of India to spurn public co-operation when it is offered and to make a fake appeal for public co-operation when the public is not in a mood to give it. I think that the amendment proposed by the Congress Bench affords an excellent method of solving a problem like this and it would be a pity if the Government of India would not take advantage of this amendment.

Apart from this, there are one or two points in the Bombay plan itself which ought to be initially objected to. In the first place, it seems to rely upon our getting foreign capital, though it has been qualified by Sir Vithal Chandavarkar by saying that it should be foreign capital unaccompanied by political interests. But is there a single instance in which foreign capital has not been accompanied by political influence? I do not myself see how you can get foreign capital without political influence.

Sir Vithal N. Chandavarkar: Then we do not want it.

Mr. Sami Vencatachalam Chetty. You might say so even now. While the Bombay plan says it is aimed at doubling the national income, it does not ensure the individual security. Therefore it confirms the suspicion of many of my friends on my left that while, under it, the rich man will become richer, the poor man will become poorer. Your national income may be magnified a hundredfold but still the personal income of a single individual, of the average individual, would go down. That is a danger which we ought to avert even in the beginning.

Well, Sir, having said this, I should consider that our ideas of the Central and Unitary form of Government being impediments to any planning ought to be revised in the interests of the country. Whatever might be our political future, I do not think we can escape a Central control and that control must comprise all essential questions like Commerce, Industry, the supply of foodstuffs and so on. With these few words, I commend the acceptance of the amendment proposed by my friend Mr. Avinashilingam Chetty.

(Prof. N. G. Ranga rose to speak.)

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahman): The House stands adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Monday the 6th November, 1944.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Monday, the 6th November, 1944.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Monday, 6th November, 1944

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber of the Council House at Eleven of the Clock, Mr President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) in the Chair

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(a) ORAL ANSWERS

BOMBAY EXPLOSION

105. *Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: (a) Will the Honourable the War Transport Member be pleased to lay a statement on the table about the explosion that occurred in Bombay in the 3rd week of April, 1944?

(b) What are the estimates of damages to —

(i) private property, and

(ii) the Government?

(c) Is it a fact that the Government have appointed a Committee to enquire into and investigate the causes of this explosion? Will the Honourable Member lay the report of the Committee of Enquiry on the table of the House, or at least give its summary?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) and (c) The first report* of the Commission of Inquiry, Bombay explosions, appointed by Government in their resolution No 8-P(29)/44, dated the 2nd May, 1944, and the Government resolution* on the report No 8-P(29)/44, dated the 12th September, 1944, are laid on the table

(b) It has not yet been possible to arrive at a reasonably approximate estimate of the damage. All the claims in respect of damaged private property have not yet been received and information regarding damage caused to Government property is not yet complete. It may be possible to lay a statement on the table during the next session.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Are Government aware that the last date for putting in claims by people who have suffered is the 30th October and that there are a large number of people, specially uneducated dock labourers who have gone to their villages and who will be unable to put in their claims before that date and do Government propose to extend the date for receiving claims from people who have gone to their villages?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The date has been extended to 30th November.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: Has the question of financial responsibility of His Majesty's Government in this matter been fixed and some agreement come to?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I am replying to that question later on in the morning.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Have the Government considered the damage done to Municipal property, roads, drains, lighting and other equipment and the obsolescence of such property on account of the proposed town planning in the proposed area and whether Government will also recoup the Bombay Municipality for this damage?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I understand those claims are being registered, but I have not got details with me at present.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: As regards the extension of date for putting in claims, are Government aware of the fact that under the Workmen's Compensation Act, six months period is given to put in claims and that the Workmen's Compensation Act, after giving six months period, also gives discretion to the

*Not printed in these debates but a copy of each has been placed in the library of the House—Ed of D

Workmen's Compensation Commissioner to waive this period and consider claims though they may be late?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I am not aware of the point I have not given it consideration. But it is the Government's intention to avoid any avoidable hardship in this matter and I have no doubt that it will be looked into.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: May I know what are the findings of the Committee about payment of damages as regards insured property?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The Government took action very soon after the event, sent representatives to Bombay and put out more than one Press notice setting out the arrangements come to.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: Is the Honourable Member aware that the Indian Press generally and Indian public opinion has commented unfavourably on the Resolution of the Government of India on the interim report of the committee?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I am not aware of that.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: Will the Honourable Member provide a day during this Session to discuss this matter in the House?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: If the matter had been of great interest, I should expect there should have been a Resolution on the subject, but there were only two adjournment motions and they were not moved. There were only three questions on this subject and at this stage of the Session, it is difficult to allot any day for discussion.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: The Honourable Member is well aware of the circumstances under which these adjournment motions were withdrawn.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I know if the Government of India will give publicity to the extension of the date for putting in claims and also to the fact that he mentioned that Government want to avoid all avoidable hardships in the case?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The answer to the latter part of the question is obvious from the Government's action already. As regards the first part, notice has already been given prominently in the Press.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: In connection with the reply to my supplementary question, may I know if the insurance companies have agreed to pay for the damages of insured property along with the Government payment?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: There has been considerable discussion on this matter, as a result of which the insurance companies should pay part of the damage, and the Government another part, all of which has been set out in the Press communique.

STRIKE BY ACCOUNTS CLERKS ON NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

106. ***Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad:** (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member please lay a statement on the table about the strike of the Accounts Clerks on the North Western Railway in August, 1944?

(b) What were the causes of the strike and how did it end?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) and (b) I lay a statement on the table of the House giving the required information.

Note stating the details regarding the strike of temporary clerks of the Accounts Department, N. W. Railway, from 29th July 1944 to 15th August 1944.

The temporary clerks of the Accounts Department stationed at Lahore, who draw pay in the scale of Rs 30-5-50-5/2-80 with an initial start of Rs 40 for the duration of the War, submitted a memorial dated 21st July 1944, asking that in view of the increased cost of living and the inadequacy of the existing Dearness Allowance and foodgrain concessions they should be granted an initial pay of Rs 80 on a revised scale of Rs 80-10-80 with 100 per cent Dearness Allowance for the duration of the War. The memorial ended with the remark that "if this moderate request" was not acceded to, they would take "some undesirable step".

2 The memorials were considered by the General Manager in consultation with the Financial Adviser and Chief Accounts Officer North Western Railway, and on the morning

of 29th July 1944, the memorialists were informed through a Circular Notice that their demands were so obviously excessive that they could not be considered or recommended to the Railway Board and that if the memorialists adopted any unconstitutional methods, they would be liable to disciplinary action. They were also told that the Administration had already been taking steps to relieve the position and were always willing to consider reasonable requests and to adjust individual cases on their merits.

3 In spite of this, however, the temporary clerks (numbering 530) struck work at 12 hours on 29th July 1944 and left the office premises without permission. Later, they staged a demonstration and delivered speeches, first within and subsequently without the office premises.

4 On 4th August 1944, a Notification was issued in the N. W. Railway Gazette explaining that according to the policy of the Railway Board, revision of scales of pay could only be considered after the war and that, for the duration of the war, the policy was to grant compensation for increased cost of living through Dearness Allowance and grainshop facilities, both of which had been enhanced from time to time in consideration of the rise in prices. It reiterated the willingness of the Administration to consider reasonable representations and said that an examination was in hand of the repercussions on railway staff of the recent allowances and other improvements sanctioned for the ministerial staff of the Government of India.

5 The Financial Adviser and Chief Accounts Officer specifically made this position known to the memorialists through a Notice and verbally, and further assured them that if they returned to duty peacefully, there would be no victimisation. But the temporary clerks continued to remain absent and to gather together outside office premises, trying to elicit support from permanent clerks and to bring in temporary clerks of other branches of the Railway. The permanent clerks of the Accounts Department also staged a 'pen strike' for half a day.

6 However, when again on 14th August 1944 a Notice was issued further assuring the temporary clerks that if they came back to duty, their absence would be treated as *die non* for all purposes and that the question of relief both for temporary and permanent employees was under active consideration and recommendations which were considered to be adequate were being forwarded immediately to the appropriate authorities, they resumed work on 16th August 1944. Except 6 clerks who had not turned up by 4th September 1944 and were consequently discharged, all others joined.

7 Temporary clerks of the Divisional Accounts Office Rawalpindi, (26 in number), followed the example of Lahore clerks and remained on strike from 12th August 1944 to 18th August 1944. All of them rejoined.

Mr H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait: With reference to part (b), the Honourable Member has not told us what is the cause of the strike?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I have been asked to lay a statement on the table which I did.

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait: Part (b) asks for a specific reply?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: It covers both parts.

SIKH REPRESENTATION IN HIGHER POSTS OF THE SUPPLY DEPARTMENT

107. ***Sardar Sant Singh:** (a) Will the Honourable the Supply Member please state the number of posts under him carrying salaries between Rs 300 and Rs 750, Rs 750 and Rs 1,000, Rs 1,000 and Rs 1,500, Rs 1,500 and Rs 2,000 and above on the 1st of November, 1944, separately? How many of them under each category are held by (i) Europeans, (ii) Anglo-Indians, (iii) Christians, (iv) Muslims, (v) Hindus, and (vi) Sikhs?

(b) Since his reply to my question on the subject on the 4th August, 1943, will he please state the number of such new posts under each category which have been created, the number to which promotion was made, and the number of Sikhs promoted and recruited in order to equalise communal inequalities in higher posts so far as Sikhs are concerned?

(c) Will he please state the efforts made by the Department to see that the Sikh community is represented in higher posts in his Department?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: (a) and (b) The information required is being collected and will be laid on the table in due course.

(c) It is my constant care to ensure that Sikhs, in the same manner as other Minority communities, get a due share in all ranks of the Supply Department. The importance of observing the orders on the subject of communal

Sardar Sant Singh: I thank the Honourable Member for the assurance May I ask, if it is a fact that since the last reply was given there is a paucity of Sikhs in the higher grades and the communal proportion is made up by including the numbers which are in the ministerial or lower grade?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: I have asked for information It is being collected Probably the Honourable Member will repeat his question when I have laid that information on the table of the House

COMMUNAL COMPOSITION IN HIGHER POSTS OF CERTAIN OFFICES UNDER POSTS AND AIR DEPARTMENT

108. *Sardar Sant Singh: (a) Will the Secretary for Posts and Air please state the number of posts carrying monthly salaries of Rs 500 to Rs 750, Rs 750 to Rs 1,000, Rs 1,000 to Rs 1,500 and Rs 1,500 and above in (i) the Department of Posts and Air, (ii) the Indian Meteorological Department, (iii) the Civil Aviation Office, and (iv) the Posts and Telegraphs Directorate?

(b) How many posts under each category are held by (i) Europeans, (ii) Anglo-Indians, (iii) Hindus, (iv) Muslims, (v) Sikhs, and (vi) others?

Mr. W. H. Shoober: (a) and (b) A statement giving the required information is laid on the table

Statement showing the number of posts carrying rates of pay above Rs 500 and their distribution community wise

Monthly Salary	Total Number of posts	Euro-peans	Anglo Indians	Hindus	Muslims	Sikhs	Others
<i>Posts and Air Department (Secretariat)</i>							
Rs 500—750	2		1			1	
Rs 750—1,000							
Rs 1,000—1,500	1			1			
Rs 1,500 and above	2			1	1		
<i>Posts and Telegraphs Directorate</i>							
Rs 500—750	10	1		7		2	
Rs 750—1,000	10		2	7		1	
Rs 1,000—1,500	5			3		2	
Rs 1,500 and above	13	8	1	2	1		1
<i>Civil Aviation Office</i>							
Rs 500—750	5	1	1	3			
Rs 750—1,000	6	1		4		1	
Rs 1,000—1,500	2	2					
Rs 1,500 and above	4	4					
<i>India Meteorological Department</i>							
Rs 500—750	14			14			
Rs 750—1,000	6			5	1		
Rs 1,000—1,500	11			10			1
Rs 1,500 and above	2	1		1			
TOTAL	93	18		75 for Indians.			

Sardar Sant Singh: May I ask the Honourable Member if it is a fact that in the case of Superintendents, certain recommendations were made by the Departmental heads down below which included the names of some Sikhs, but those recommendations were overlooked and the claims of Sikhs were passed over in favour of junior men

Mr. W. H. Shoober: I am not quite clear as to what posts the Honourable Member is referring to in the posts of Superintendents

Sardar Sant Singh: Superintendent of Post offices

Mr. W. H. Shoober: I am not at all clear either as to whether promotions or selections are referred to In the original question the Honourable Member wants information regarding certain posts carrying certain salaries If

the Honourable Member can be a little more specific, I might be able to give him some information

Sardar Sant Singh: Is it a fact that the senior-most Sikhs are being superseded by men occupying sometimes 73rd place in the seniority list simply because they happen to belong to Muslim community and the senior-most men belong to the Sikh community

Mr. W. H. Shoober: My answer to that question is that it is not a fact that there has been any supersession simply because an officer belonged to the Mushra community

Sardar Sant Singh: Will the Honourable Member give me an assurance that seniority will be considered in selection, as seniority is one of the factors which has to be taken into consideration along with efficiency?

Mr. W. H. Shoober: I can assure the Honourable Member that seniority, which means general added experience, is certainly a factor which is taken into consideration when recommendations are made regarding promotions

COMMUNAL COMPOSITION IN HIGHER POSTS OF THE RAILWAY BOARD

109. ***Sardar Sant Singh:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state the number of posts carrying monthly salaries of Rs 500 to Rs 750, Rs 750 to Rs 1,000, Rs 1,000 to Rs 1,500 and Rs 1,500 and above in the Railway Board?

(b) How many of these are held by (i) Hindus, (ii) Muslims, (iii) Sikhs, and (iv) others?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) A statement showing the information required by the Honourable Member is placed on the table of the House

(b) The numbers by communities are shown in the statement

Number and communities of officers on the scales of pay mentioned in part (a) of the question, in the Railway Board's Office

Scale of Pay	Hindus	Muslims	Sikhs	Others	Total
Rs. 500—750	9	3	2	2	16
Rs. 750—1,000	5	1		2	8
Rs. 1,000—1,500	3	1		9	13
Rs. 1,500 and above	8	4		13	25
Total	25	9	2	26	62

COMPLAINT RE MANNER OF POSTAL INSPECTORS' SELECTION

110. ***Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** Has the attention of the Honourable Member for Posts and Air been drawn to a contribution in the *Sind Observer*, Karachi, dated the 12th September, 1944, under the caption "Postal Inspectors Selection"? If so, what steps does the Honourable Member propose to take to remove the complaint regarding the actual selection by local officials by interview after the competitive examination instead of having the interview before the competitive examination?

Mr. W. H. Shoober: Yes. Government have examined the proposal but do not see any reason to alter the existing rules

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: May I know what are the reasons for holding a competitive examination first and then holding an interview and then turning them out? Is it fair?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) The Honourable Member is arguing

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Will it not be advantageous to hold the interview first and then hold the competitive examination, so that no time is lost and no unnecessary trouble is given

Mr. W. H. Shoober: May I explain to the Honourable Member that it would really be difficult to interview all the candidates before the examina-

indeed and it would be waste of time for the Selection Committee to interview all candidates. Such an arrangement would entirely stultify the rules. It is a well known fact that in making selections for instance even to Indian Civil Service, the Federal Public Service Commission interview only those candidates who qualify themselves in the written examination. The same principle has been adopted in the case of examinations for promotions to Inspectors of Post Offices.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai May I point out that in view of the fact that there are large numbers of candidates for the examination, it would be advantageous to have the interview first and thus eliminate the candidates and restrict the number who sit for the written examination? Is that not a better course?

Mr. W. H. Shoober: My reply to that is that although any men with good records and with five years service in clerical grades of the Department, are allowed to appear in the examination a great many of these men entirely fail to get anything like qualifying marks. Some of them might possess good personality and they might be selected to appear at the examination under the system proposed. With all due respect to the Honourable Member that system which he recommends would be entirely unworkable.

INDECENT REMARKS MADE BY AN S T E TO A SECOND CLASS LADY PASSENGER

111 *Mr. Lalchand Navalrai. (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to refer to the information contained in a cutting of the *Railway Herald*, Karachi, dated the 18th September, 1944, to the effect that on or about the 6th September, 1944, an S T E Railway seeing a respectable 2nd class lady passenger going out of the train all alone approached her and made indecent remarks which made her angry and she threw at his head a vessel that she was carrying and also gave him a thrashing with her sandals?

(b) Is it a fact that this case is being hushed up? If so, who is responsible for such a conduct?

(c) What steps does the Honourable Member propose to take in this case as these days even veiled ladies travel all alone?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall (1) I have seen the cutting of the *Railway Herald* referred to by the Honourable Member. The account is grossly inaccurate.

(b) and (c) The reply to the first part of (b) is in the negative. The second part of (b) and part (c) do not arise.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai If the information is inaccurate, may I know if the Honourable Member has got correct information?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall I can merely inform the Honourable Member that the lady herself and her son contradicted the allegations regarding indecent remarks, they also contradicted the statement that the lady threw a vessel at the head of the Special Ticket Examiner, or that she gave him a thrashing with her sandals or otherwise. Both of them further maintain that the newspaper report is quite baseless and highly exaggerated and they made a statement duly attested by a Magistrate to this effect.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai But did this incident take place at all?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: No, Sir, not in the terms mentioned.

ACCOUNTS OF POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS STORE AND DAIRY AT KARACHI

†112 *Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: (a) Will the Secretary for Posts and Air be pleased to state whether it is a fact that there are serious complaints regarding the management and accounts of the Posts and Telegraphs Store and Dairy at Karachi?

(b) If the reply to (a) above is in the affirmative, what is the result of enquiries if any, made by the Government?

Mr. W. H. Shoober: (a) The Government of India have received no representation in this matter but they understand that the Director-General has made an enquiry in view of certain statements which came to his notice unofficially and is satisfied that the complaints are not justified.

(b) Does not arise.

†Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner being absent

COMMUNAL TREND OF ARTICLES IN *POSTAL SENTINEL*, KARACHI

113. *Seth Yusuf Abdoolah Haroon: (a) Is the Secretary for Posts and Air aware of the articles published monthly in the *Postal Sentinel*, Karachi, an organ of the All-India Postal and R M S Union Provincial Branch, Karachi?

(b) If the reply to (a) above is in the affirmative, have the Government taken note that these articles are breeding communal hatred between the Hindu and Muslim Postal staff of the Sind and Baluchistan Circle? If so, what action do the Government propose to take in the matter?

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: (a) Yes

(b) No, the second part of the question does not arise

ANTI-MUSLIM ACTIVITIES OF THE ALL-INDIA POSTAL AND RAILWAY MAIL SERVICE UNION, PROVINCIAL BRANCH, KARACHI

114. *Seth Yusuf Abdoolah Haroon: (a) Is the Secretary for Posts and Air aware of the activities of the All-India Postal and Railway Mail Service Union, Provincial Branch, Karachi, against the Muslim employees of that Department, and persecution of the Muslim staff through its official organ *Postal Sentinel*?

(b) Will the Government call for the correspondence exchanged by this Union with the Director of Posts and Telegraphs, Karachi, to verify the statement made in (a) above?

(c) In case his reply to (a) above be in the affirmative, do the Government propose to take remedial steps in this direction?

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: (a) No

(b) If a specific instance or instances of alleged persecution can be given, the suggestion will be considered

(c) Does not arise

EXTENSIONS OF SERVICE IN SIND AND BALUCHISTAN POSTAL CIRCLE

115. *Seth Yusuf Abdoolah Haroon: (a) Will the Secretary for Posts and Air please state if it is a fact that a number of postal officials of different categories are on extension of service in the Sind and Baluchistan Circle?

(b) What is the ground for granting these extensions?

(c) Are Government aware that these extensions are adversely affecting the promotion of younger deserving officials?

(d) If reply to (c) is in the affirmative, do Government propose to issue orders to cancel the extensions already granted?

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: (a) Extension of service has not been granted to any official in the Sind and Baluchistan Circle but some postal officials have been retained in service in certain categories beyond the age of 55 years

(b) Under the rules the officials in these categories should ordinarily be retained in service up to the age of 60 years provided they continue to be efficient

(c) The matter is under examination

(d) No

ISHURDI-PABNA-SADHUGANJ RAILWAY PROJECT

116. *Mr. Akhli Chandra Datta: Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state if any action has been taken or is under contemplation for the opening of the Ishurdi Pabna Sadhuganj Railway project?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: No action has been taken for the construction of the Ishurdi-Pabna-Sadhuganj Railway. This project will be considered along with others when the post-war plans for the area are being finalised

BEGGAR NUISANCE AT RAILWAY STATIONS

117. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Has the attention of the Honourable Member for Railways been drawn to the increasing and clamant beggary at all Railway stations in India?

(b) Have Government taken any steps since the war to ask Railway officials and the station staff to abate this nuisance?

(c) What steps do Government propose to take in future to prevent the hardship to passengers and the trespass on Railway property at the hands of beggars?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall (a) to (c) Government are aware of the nuisance caused by beggars at railway stations and have issued instructions to Railway Administrations to take active measures in collaboration with the Government Railway Police to eradicate the evil.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Have Government instructed the station staff, that is all men on the station, ticketmen, cleaners and everybody else, to remove these people and stop them from annoying the passengers, that is, make it the duty of the whole staff and not merely of the railway police?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: That is so, but the staff have other duties to attend to also.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari. May I ask when these instructions were issued?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The general rules were altered in 1941 to give the railways and the police greater powers in this matter. A letter was recently issued to the Provincial Governments, I have not got the date with me but I think it was about August.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: Has the Honourable Member satisfied himself that any improvement in the position has been effected?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: No, Sir. The evil continues and one of the troubles, of course, is the generosity of the public who encourage beggars and make it worth their while.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: Who will see to the enforcement of these things in stations where there are no railway police?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The railway staff will do their best to do so, but, as I said, they cannot make it their sole occupation.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Are Government aware that the public is generous to the beggars because Government have provided no place where their poverty can be relieved and they may be taken care of?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: It is illegal for persons, whether they are in possession of a ticket or not, to solicit alms or subscriptions or charity in any part of the railway premises or trains.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Therefore will Government take steps to establish some poor houses and pass legislation by which their needs will be provided for?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: That is not a question for the Railway Department.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Surely a part of the savings of the Railway Department can be set apart for a poor house like that?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: We endeavour to stop this evil which, I understand, is the wish of the House, and therefore have made it illegal to solicit alms or charity on railway premises or trains.

SHIPPING AVAILABLE FOR CIVILIAN GOODS

118. ***Mr. Manu Subedar**: (a) Will the Honourable Member for War Transport be pleased to state the amount of shipping, as compared with the two years before the outbreak of the war, available for civilian goods in connection with (i) overseas trade, and (ii) coasting trade?

(b) What steps have Government taken to increase the tonnage available for these purposes?

(c) What is the basis on which available shipping space is assigned to various firms and various classes of goods?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: This question concerns the Honourable Member for Commerce who will reply to the question in due course.

BOMBAY EXPLOSION

119. ***Mr. Manu Subedar:** (a) Having regard to the explosion in Bombay, will the Honourable Member for War Transport please state what steps Government are taking to secure the recoupment of the compensation moneys paid by them?

(b) What is the total amount of compensation either paid or estimated to be payable in connection with this explosion?

(c) Is it a fact that Government have not assisted in the rebuilding of this area and more particularly of the warehouses and other business buildings?

(d) Is it a fact that the explosion occurred on the 14th of April, 1944, and not a single building has been put up and ready for actual use after the lapse of six months in one of the most important business localities of Bombay, and that this delay is entirely due to the intransigence of the Defence Department in releasing building material?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) The matter is under consideration

(b) It will not be possible to prepare an estimate till all the claims have been received, i.e., till after the 30th November

(c) It is not a fact Government have given the fullest possible assistance in the rebuilding of the damaged area. The reconstruction work in the docks undertaken by the Army authorities is proceeding according to plan and all the assistance asked for by the Port Trust has been and is being given. As regards the city area outside the port, the Bombay Government received 66 applications for reconstruction of godowns all of which have been dealt with and release of materials arranged by the controlling authorities concerned

(d) The answer to the first part of the question regarding the date of the explosion is 'Yes' and the answer to the rest of the question is 'No'. In the port area reconditioning of warehouses and godowns is proceeding apace. In the Elphinstone Estate several buildings have been reconditioned and in the city area outside the port, about 30 buildings have been erected and plans for reconstruction prepared for many more

Mr. Manu Subedar: With reference to part (a) may I know whether the Government of India have written to His Majesty's Government and whether the War Cabinet have considered the question that the great losses involved in the accident are a direct responsibility of the Allied Nations and that the Government of India should be recouped?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Some very intricate legal and technical questions are involved which I should be in a better position to answer when they have received further consideration

Mr. Manu Subedar: My question was, whether Government have written to His Majesty's Government on this subject, if there has been any correspondence, and if the matter has been brought before the War Cabinet by the representatives of India

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The matter has been raised with His Majesty's Government

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Will the Government of India distribute copies of the Report to Members of the Legislature?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Yes, Sir I have no objection. If there is a general wish I shall do my best to get copies produced for Members before the end of the Session, i.e., for those who may want them

Mr. Manu Subedar: Will the Honourable Member assure this House that there has been no delay in the issue of materials to the Bombay Municipality who are putting up houses to house the de-housed population of this locality, and godowns. Not one godown is functioning today, more than six months have passed and not one godown has been completed for the trade. The Honourable Member has mentioned about the reconstruction work that is going on in the docks for the Army, I am talking of the civil population. Why are the Government so negligent with regard to the needs and requirements of the civilian population?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I entirely deny that Government are negligent or have been negligent in this matter. The Army, I understand, have done a great deal in clearing the Elphinstone Estate and a certain amount in re-roofing the grain market, and I think other buildings. Government set aside some iron and steel for the port outside the Docks but they subsequently found that this iron and steel was not wanted at that time. I think it is a fact that no demands were received by the Bombay Government from any body before September 1st, and I think this is an attributable fact that during the monsoon it is not possible to do building reconstruction. As I said in my answer, I think that all demands for materials have been adequately met.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Will Government now and hereafter, at all events, be liberal in the issue of building materials for the construction of trade godowns and firms' offices as well as for the construction of residential buildings for the population which has been de-housed?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: So far as I am aware, within the limits of the availability of supply, Government always have been liberal in this matter.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: May I ask whether the Honourable Member is aware that the Government resolution on the interim report is a deliberate attempt at white-washing the responsibility of the representative of His Majesty's Government's War Transport Department in India, and if that would not mitigate against the financial aid that they expect to get from His Majesty's Government?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: No, Sir.

COAL POSITION

120. ***Mr. Manu Subedar.** (a) Will the Honourable the Supply Member be pleased to state the figures of the export of coal from India two years before the war and during each of the years after the outbreak of the war?

(b) Is it a fact that Indian coal was exported to Greece and other destinations in the Mediterranean?

(c) Is it a fact that convoy ships were supplied with Indian coal for their fuel requirements?

(d) How much coal was exported on account of the military from India during each of the years of the war?

(e) How much additional demand for coal has arisen in the country after the war, and for what purposes?

(f) What has been the increase in the consumption of coal by the Railways?

(g) How many factories in India, since July last, have been compelled to close down on account of the coal shortage?

(h) Are there any factories or class of factories which were asked to close down on the plea that they would not be given any more coal?

(i) Has the situation materially improved since the appointment of the Coal Controller? If so, in what way?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: (a) A statement showing coal exports from British India during the seven years 1937-38 to 1943-44 is laid on the table of the House.

(b) Yes.

(c) Coal burning ships in convoy which call at Indian ports are supplied with Indian coal as and when necessary.

(d) It is not in the public interest to disclose the amount of coal that was exported from year to year on account of military requirements.

(e) The average consumption of coal during the first three years of war was about two million tons more than the average for three years preceding the outbreak of war. This was largely due to the increased requirements of the Railways, the Defence Services and the Industries. Since 1943, the consumption of coal has shrunk. This is because of the fall in the output. Government have met the situation as far as possible by introducing coal rationing and various fuel economy measures, and by steadily reducing exports of coal.

- (f) The average monthly consumption in 1943-44 exceeded that in 1938-39 by 122,000 tons
- (g) I regret I have no information. If the Honourable Member has any particular cases in mind I shall have them investigated
- (h) No factories or class of factories have been asked to close down solely on account of coal shortage. So far as the Re-Rolling Mills are concerned I would draw the attention of the Honourable Member to my reply to the supplementary questions asked by him on 1st November, 1944
- (i) I would draw Honourable Member's attention to the answer given by me in the Legislative Assembly on the 1st November, 1944, to parts (a), (b), (d) and (e) of Mr Neogy's Starred Question No 17

Reports of coal from British India during the seven years 1937-38 to 1943-44

	Quantity (in thousands of tons)
1937-38	1,006
1938-39	1,321
1939-40	1,591
1940-41	1,615
1941-42	1,513
1942-43	326
1943-44	156

Mr. Manu Subedar: With regard to part (c), may I know whether coal supply to the Convoy Ships inside the Indian harbours is not included in the export figures?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudahar: No, Sir. It is Bunker coal that is supplied. It is not included in the export figures.

DESIRABILITY OF RUNNING A MORNING TRAIN ON LUDHIANA-DHURI-JAKHAL LINE

121 *Sardar Mangal Singh: Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state

(a) whether it is a fact that on the Ludhiana-Dhuri-Jakhal Line all the three trains, Nos. 411, 265 and 407, reach Ludhiana in the evening at 14-55, 19-10 and 22-00 and that there is no train which reaches Ludhiana before noon,

(b) whether the Honourable Member is aware that there was a morning train which used to reach Ludhiana at 10 A.M., the discontinuation of which has caused great inconvenience to the public, and

(c) whether he proposes to instruct the Agent, North Western Railway, that train No. 265 should be started from Jakhal at 5-30 A.M. instead of at 14-40 as before?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) The reply is in the affirmative so far as passenger trains from Jakhal to Ludhiana are concerned.

(b) Prior to 1st May 1944, there was a train which used to leave Jakhal at 5-15 and reach Ludhiana before 10-00 A.M. Government are, however, not aware that the change in the timings of this train has caused any inconvenience to the public.

(c) No, as it would entail the provision of an additional rake and engine, which, in the present day circumstances are difficult to provide.

Sardar Mangal Singh: With regard to part (b), does the Honourable Member think that Government is not aware that it has caused inconvenience to the public?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: It is a question of greater convenience really. The Service, I understand, was changed in order to provide a better connection with five Main Line Mail trains thereby giving greater convenience to the public.

Sardar Mangal Singh: Does the Honourable Member realize that there are three trains reaching in the afternoon and none starting in the morning?

The morning train used to bring litigants from a number of stations, and since this train has been discontinued, the litigants have to arrive one day earlier. Surely it has caused them great inconvenience and if the Honourable Member wants any representation, that can be sent.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Yes, Sir. But against that has to be set the fact that if the alteration had not been made, the passengers arriving in the middle of the night would have to wait till the afternoon. This matter is for the Local Advisory Committee and if the Honourable Member will arrange to raise the matter with them, it will undoubtedly be dealt with satisfactorily.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable Member consider the desirability of discontinuing further trains in order to discourage litigation?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Next question.

PROPOSALS FOR APPOINTMENT OF INDIAN CONSUL AT MOSCOW AND RUSSIAN CONSUL AT DELHI

121A. *Sardar Mangal Singh: Will the Foreign Secretary please state

(a) whether there are any proposals under consideration for the appointment of an Indian Consul at Moscow, and Russian Consul at Delhi, and

(b) if the answer to (a) be in the affirmative, whether Government are in a position to assure the House that an Indian will be appointed to this post?

Sir Olaf Caroe: (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Sardar Mangal Singh: May I know if the Government of India has made any representation to His Majesty's Government about this matter?

Sir Olaf Caroe: No, Sir.

Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: Has there been any correspondence between the United Kingdom and the Indian Government on this subject?

Sir Olaf Caroe: No, Sir.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I ask whether the Government of India are aware of the fact that some questions were asked in the House of Commons about this, and whether Government propose to take any action in the matter?

Sir Olaf Caroe: I saw a press report of the question in the House of Commons. As far as I am aware, the answer was on the same lines as I have just given. Where the information came from, I have no idea.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

PROPOSAL FOR ALLOWING SECOND CLASS PASSES TO INSPECTORS AND ASSISTANT INSPECTORS ON STATE RAILWAYS.

29. Sardar Sant Singh: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state whether the question of allowing second class passes to Inspectors and Assistant Inspectors in Indian State Railways, irrespective of pay, was under consideration of the Railway Board? If so, how was the same disposed of?

(b) Is it a fact that these Inspectors and Assistant Inspectors travel in Inter and Third Classes along with their labour? Does it not affect the discipline of the service?

(c) Is it a fact that some of the Assistant Inspectors of Works get Third Class passes on the North Western Railway, while the staff working under them such as Works Mistresses, are given Inter Class passes?

(d) Is it a fact that these very Assistant Inspectors of Works issue and sign Inter Class passes, while they themselves are given Third Class passes?

(e) Do Government propose to revise pass rules with a view to do away with the anomalies referred to above and permit the issue of higher class duty passes to all Inspectors and Assistant Inspectors? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Yes. The matter referred to was considered in 1941, when the Railway Board decided that there was no justification to depart from the rules in force on the subject.

(b) In some cases, yes. As regards the second part, the answer is in the negative.

(c) Yes, in two cases.

(d) One of the Assistant Inspectors referred to in reply to part (c) above is delegated with powers to issue and sign Inter Class Passes.

(e) No. The class of pass admissible to a Railway employee is determined by the pay he is drawing, and though this rule may, in rare cases, result in such anomalies, as pointed out by the Honourable Member, Government consider that on the whole the rule is sound.

DIFFERENCE IN SCALES OF PAY OF THE TWO CADRES OF TELEGRAPH MASTERS

30. **Sardar Sant Singh:** (a) Will the Secretary for Posts and Air please state if it is a fact that there is a huge difference in both the initial and the maximum pay of the two cadres of Telegraph Masters, i.e., the Station Service and the General Service?

(b) Is it a fact that the nature of duties performed and the responsibilities shouldered by both the classes of Telegraph Masters are the same?

(c) If the reply to (a) above be in the affirmative, are the Government prepared to remove the anomaly, or to explain in what respect do their duties and responsibilities differ?

(d) Is it a fact that the maximum pay of a Station Service Telegraph Master is less than the maximum pay of a General Service Telegraphist whose work the former supervises?

(e) Is it a fact that some General Service Telegraph Masters were transferred to Station Service at their request whereas similar requests of Station Service Telegraph Masters for transfer to General Service have been turned down?

(f) Why were the conditions of service relaxed in the case of General Service Telegraph Masters for transfer to Station Service and the same refused in the case of Station Service Telegraph Masters for transfer to General Service?

(g) If the reply to (a), (b), (c), (d), (e) and (f) be in the affirmative, will the Government consider the removal of existing discontentment amongst the Station Service Telegraph Masters (who constitute an important portion of the Supervisory staff) by transferring them to General Service? If not, why not?

(h) Do not the Government consider it necessary in the interest of efficiency of service that Station Service Telegraph Masters, like General Service Telegraph Masters, should have varied experience of different offices in different Circles prior to promotions?

(i) Will it not be fair that the scales of pay for both the categories of Telegraph Masters be the same except that those accepting transfers be granted house-rent allowance?

Mr. W. H. Shoober: (a) There is a difference but it is not huge.

(b) Yes.

(c) There is no anomaly, the conditions of service of Station Service Telegraph Masters and General Service Telegraph Masters are not the same, their scales of pay are therefore different.

(d) Yes, but in certain cases only where it is unavoidable.

(e) The fact as stated by the Honourable Member is substantially correct.

(f) Because it was in the interests of Government to do so.

(g) Does not arise in view of the reply to part (f).

(h) No.

(i) No, because the conditions of service of General and Station Service Telegraph Masters regarding liability to transfer are not the same.

ABSORPTION OF STATION SERVICE TELEGRAPH MASTERS INTO GENERAL SERVICE

31. **Sardar Sant Singh:** Is the Secretary for Posts and Air aware of the Director General's letter No. A. 4-31/42, dated the 25th February, 1942, in which he expresses his inability for immediate absorption of Station Service Telegraph Masters into General Service? Will the Government state if they are

Mr. W. H. Shoober: The reply to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. The reply to the second part is in the negative. The concluding part of the question does not arise.

DIVISION OF FRUIT VENDING CONTRACTS AT CERTAIN STATIONS ON NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

32. Bhai Parmanand: Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state

(a) if it is a fact that the North Western Railway Administration in April, 1940, divided the Fruit Vending Contracts of certain stations against the policy laid down by the Central Government viz — "where contractors of any community have rendered long and satisfactory service the division of the contract should be unnecessary", if so, the reasons therefor, and whether such divisions were also made on other State-managed Railways, if so, who they are,

(b) if it is a fact that the North Western Railway Administration in conformity with the said policy circulated a letter, No 23-AC, dated the 17th June, 1940, to Divisional Superintendents stating therein that these contracts as and when fall vacant are to be granted to the original Fruit Vending Contractors, if so, how many since then have been granted to the original Fruit Vending Contractors, if none, the reasons therefor.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) No, and as far as Government are aware such divisions have not been made on other State managed Railways.

(b) The reply to the first part is in the affirmative. As regards the second part, the fruit vending contract at Bhatinda which had been divided before the issue of the Railway Board's orders of May 1940, has been restored to the original vendor. The occasion for such restoration has not arisen at other stations where the contracts had been divided.

VACATION TO TRAIN EXAMINERS TRAINING SCHOOL AT JAMALPUR

33. Bhai Parmanand: Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state

(a) if it is a fact that the school for training Train Examiners at Jamalpur on the East Indian Railway remained closed from the 1st day of May, 1944 to the 14th day of August, 1944, if so, the reasons therefor,

(b) if it is a fact that the staff of the said school was utilized in capacities outside the cadre of the school and their pay and allowances were charged against the school, if not, what the true fact is, and

(c) if it is a fact that for training students were detailed more than once for those periods by the respective Divisions but they had to come back without receiving any training, if not, what the true fact is, if so, the reasons for the unnecessary expenditure, and whether it was a practice to close the school for vacations in the past, if not, why the new procedure was adopted?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I have called for the information and a reply will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

PRESS NOTES ON CONVICTION OF RAILWAY SERVANTS FOR CORRUPTION AND BRIBERY

34. Bhai Parmanand: Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state if it is the policy of the Central Government to publish press notes on conviction of Railway servants for corruption and bribery and not to publish or to refer in those press notes the admission of their appeals against those convictions and of their acquittals?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Press notes are published when convictions of railway servants are obtained but Government do not receive information regarding admission or acceptance of appeals till a considerable time has elapsed after the issue of the original press notes. Government will however publish this information when possible.

TRAVELLING ALLOWANCE PAID TO CERTAIN TICKET INSPECTING STAFF ON EAST INDIAN RAILWAY

35. Bhai Parmanand. Will the Honourable Member for Railways please refer to the Railway Board letter No 822-E G, dated the 22nd December, 1932, viz —“While the Railway Board are convinced that there is no justification for paying the ticket-inspecting or Examining staff mileage allowance as running staff, the Governor General has accordingly decided that as an *ex-gratia* measure the following scales of monthly consolidated travelling allowances should be sanctioned to such employees —

	Rs
Staff drawing less than Rs 100	35 per mensem,
Rs 100 or over but less than Rs 200	50 per mensem, and
Rs 200 and over	65 per mensem, ”

and state the rate of the travelling allowance paid in each Division on the East Indian Railway to (i) Junior Inspectors, (ii) Senior Inspectors, and (iii) Chief Inspectors, appointed from the staff and who held permanent posts of Travelling Ticket Inspectors prior to the introduction of the crew system in Howrah, Asansol, Dinapur, Allahabad, Lucknow and Moradabad Divisions, respectively, and the reasons for the difference if any in the rate of payment in any Division?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I have called for the information and a reply will be laid on the table of the House in due course

INCREASE IN ALLOWANCES OF RUNNING AND OTHER STAFF

36. Bhai Parmanand Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state

(a) the rate of increase in the daily allowance of the staff other than Running Staff,

(b) the rate of increase in the daily or mileage allowance of the Running Staff, and

(c) the rate of increase in the daily (consolidated or *ex-gratia* measure) allowance for the Running Staff, and state the reasons for the difference in the rate of increase, if any, for the said staff since March, 1944?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The distinctions made by the Honourable Member in the various parts of this question are not very clear, and with your permission, Sir, I propose to deal with the question as a whole

Railway staff other than running staff, draw daily allowance for journeys by rail or absence from headquarters and mileage allowance for journeys by road. The rates of daily allowance have been increased by 33½ per cent for inferior servants and 50 per cent for subordinates and the rates of mileage allowance have been increased at different rates from 25 per cent to 50 per cent

Certain categories of staff like travelling Ticket Inspectors, Road Van Clerks and running Parcel Clerks draw consolidated travelling allowance at a certain rate and this rate of allowance has been increased by 25 per cent

Running staff, which term includes railway servants like Drivers, Guards, Firemen, etc., who perform duties directly connected with the movement of running trains, draw running allowance, which, subject to certain limits, is treated as pay for all purposes. It has been recognised that a certain portion of this allowance is of the nature of a compensatory allowance and is analogous to T A given to other staff. It is considered that this portion does not exceed 25 per cent of the running allowance. On this basis an increase equal to 10 per cent of the running allowance for those who earn running allowance of Rs 60 a month and under 6½ per cent subject to a minimum of Rs 6 for those who earn running allowance of Rs 61 and above has been sanctioned. This gives an increase over the compensatory portion of the running allowance of 40 per cent and 25 per cent respectively

The increase in daily and road mileage allowances was sanctioned from the 1st March 1944 and that in consolidated travelling allowance with effect from 1st May 1944 and that in running allowance from 1st July, 1944

**EXPENDITURE AND INCOME ON CHEAP SUPPLY TO RAILWAY SERVANTS SCHEME AND
AMOUNT OF DEARNESS ALLOWANCE PAID**

37 Bhai Parmanand Will the Honourable Member for Railways please lay a comparative statement of the expenditure and income on the Cheap Supply to Railway Servants Scheme per head, together with the amount of dearness allowance paid per head in kind and in coin, respectively?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall. The figures for the half year ending September 1944 are as follows —

The average wholesale cost of goods sold per employee per month	19 13 0
The average cost of retailing including freight, losses and all other overheads, per employee per month	1 3 0
Total average expenditure on the scheme per employee per month	21 0 0
Average receipt per employee per month	14 4 0
Nett cost per employee per month	6 12 0
Average retail cost in the bazaars of goods sold in the Railway shops per employee per month plus cost of retailing	22 8 0
Value of relief (dearness in kind) per employee per month	8 4 0

The Honourable Member will find the various rates of dearness allowance in coin per head notified in the Railway Department's notification No E 44-D A 11, dated 1st March 1944, as subsequently amended by notification No E 44-D A 11, dated 2nd October 1944, a copy of each of which is in the Library of the House

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT

SIND GOVERNMENT'S BAN ON CHAPTER XIV OF SATYARTH PRAKASHA

Mr President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) I have received a notice from Bhai Parmanand of his intention to move an adjournment of the House to discuss a definite matter of urgent and definite public importance, namely, the Sind Government's ban on the 14th Chapter of 'Satyarth Prakasha', which is a sacred book of the Arya Samajists throughout the whole of India

Why was this ban imposed and when was it imposed?

Bhai Parmanand (West Punjab Non-Muhammadian) I read it in yesterday's *Tribune*

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) Why was this ban imposed?

Bhai Parmanand It was imposed under the Defence of India Rules for security of public peace

Mr President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) When was it imposed?

Bhai Parmanand I think it was day before yesterday I read about it in yesterday's *Tribune*

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie (Home Member) No ban has been imposed

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) Has the Honourable Member seen the orders of the Government?

Bhai Parmanand I have seen the orders in the *Tribune*

Mr Lalchand Navalrai (Sind Non-Muhammadian Rural) Does the Honourable Member know that a chapter out of that book has been banned?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie No ban has been imposed by the Government of India If someone else has imposed a ban, I have no knowledge of it

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai It is the Sind Government, but it applies to the whole of India

Mr President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) Is it not a provincial matter?

Sardar Mangal Singh (East Punjab Sikh) Action is under the Defence of India Rules

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) Was the action taken under the Defence of India Rules?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: The first I heard of it was when I got this notice at two minutes to Eleven. I enquired from my office and I was informed that no such order had been issued. The question has never even been before me.

Sardar Sant Singh (West Punjab Sikh) Will the Honourable Member please make enquiries?

Mr T S. Avinashilingam Chettiar (Salem and Combaroto *cum* North Arcot Non-Muhammadian Rural) It is a matter on which he can take time and give a reply.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) Will the Honourable Member please find out and let me know?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I can find out. The position is this that these bans are imposed if the local situation makes it necessary. This follows from the delegation of powers to the Provincial Government. It may be that the situation in Sind makes it necessary from the point of view of law, and order and it is a question on which it is impossible for us to pass judgment.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) It is alleged that it is a sacred book of the Arya Samajists and a ban has been imposed on it and it is a matter of public importance. As objection has been taken, those who are for leave being granted please stand up.

(A count was taken.)

As not less than 25 Members are for leave being granted this motion will be taken up at 4 o'clock to-day.

ELECTION OF A MEMBER TO THE STANDING FINANCE COMMITTEE

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) I have to inform the Assembly that up to 12 Noon on Friday, the 3rd November, 1944, the time fixed for receiving nomination for the Standing Finance Committee, only one nomination was received. As there is only one vacancy I declare Lt-Col Dr J C Chatterjee to be duly elected.

THE HINDU CODE, PART I (INTESTATE SUCCESSION)

PETITIONS LAID ON THE TABLE

Secretary of the Assembly: Sir, under Standing Order 78, I have to report that 184 petitions as per statement laid on the table have been received relating to the Bill to amend and codify the Hindu Law relating to Intestate Succession which was introduced in the Legislative Assembly on the 2nd March, 1943, by the Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed.

STATEMENT

Petitions relating to the Bill to amend and codify the Hindu Law relating to intestate succession which was introduced in the Legislative Assembly on the 2nd March, 1943 by the Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed

Serial No	Number of signature	District or town or village	Province
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Serial No	Number of signature	District or town or village	Province
13	295	Darbhanga	Bihar
14	5	Do	Do
15	6	Do	Do
16	6	Do	Do
17	61	Patna	Do
18	176	Bankura	Bengal
19	52	Do	Do
20	45	Do	Do
21	61	Bogra	Do
22	147	Do	Do
23	443	Do	Do
24	70	Burdwan	Do
25	104	Do	Do
26	68	Do	Do
27	23	Calcutta	Do
28	36	Do	Do
29	42	Do	Do
30	53	Do	Do
31	55	Do	Do
32	132	Dacca	Do
33	121	Do	Do
34	92	Do	Do
35	72	Do	Do
36	40	Hooghly	Do
37	62	Do	Do
38	99	Do	Do
39	70	Do	Do
40	29	Fardpur	Do
41	28	Do	Do
42	846	Do	Do
43	111	Do	Do
44	61	Do	Do
45	108	Jalpaiguri	Do
46	20	Do	Do
47	85	Jessore	Do
48	143	Do	Do
49	56	Do	Do
50	66	Do	Do
51	12	Do	Do
52	61	Khulna	Do
53	33	Do	Do
54	59	Do	Do
55	20	Do	Do
56	181	Malda	Do
57	94	Do	Do
58	7	Do	Do
59	63	Midnapore	Do
60	17	Do	Do
61	19	Do	Do
62	64	Murshidabad	Do
63	113	Do	Do
64	174	Do	Do
65	71	Do	Do
66	71	Do	Do
67	71	Do	Do
68	27	Do	Do
69	118	Do	Do
70	183	Do	Do
71	116	Do	Do
72	16	Do	Do
73	233	Do	Do
74	103	Do	Do
75	125	Do	Do
76	62	Do	Do
77	113	Do	Do

Serial No	Number of signature	District or town or village	Province
78	123	Murshidabad	Bengal
79	124	Do	Do
80	24	Do	Do
81	30	Do	Do
82	62	Do	Do
83	49	Mymensingh	Do
84	30	Do	Do
85	193	Do	Do
86	65	Do	Do
87	165	Do	Do
88	56	Do	Do
89	125	Do	Do
90	40	Do	Do
91	98	Do	Do
92	73	Do	Do
93	44	Do	Do
94	86	Do	Do
95	132	Do	Do
96	149	Do	Do
97	42	Do	Do
98	64	Do	Do
99	71	Do	Do
100	30	Do	Do
101	15	Do	Do
102	114	Do	Do
103	53	Do	Do
104	37	Do	Do
105	46	Do	Do
106	118	Do	Do
107	80	Do	Do
108	762	Do	Do
109	70	Do	Do
110	148	Do	Do
111	107	Do	Do
112	392	Do	Do
113	11	Do	Do
114	85	Do	Do
115	96	Do	Do
116	66	Nadha	Do
117	78	Noakhali	Do
118	171	Do	Do
119	67	Do	Do
120	47	Pahna	Do
121	194	Do	Do
122	70	Do	Do
123	28	Do	Do
124	543	Do	Do
125	114	24 Parganas	Do
126	280	Rajshahi	Do
127	197	Rangpur	Do
128	114	Tippera	Do
129	59	Dhu Garu, etc	Do
130	46	Dhanagram, etc	Do
131	99	Jogpai, etc	Do
132	32	Gogra, etc	Do
133	30	Salikha, etc	Do
134	102	Marupduha, etc	Do

3 Total 13,075

MOTION RE POSITION OF INDIANS IN SOUTH AFRICA AND EAST AFRICA .

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare (Member for Commonwealth Relations)
 Sir, I move

"That the position of Indians in South Africa and East Africa be taken into consideration."

[Dr N B Khare]

This motion relates to both the cases—South and East Africa. With your permission and indulgence of the House, I would like first to deal with the position in East Africa although I realise that the House is at the moment more exercised over the position of South Africa. I am doing so because in connection with the Resolution moved by the Honourable Mr P N Saprú and accepted by Government at the last Session of the Council of State a detailed discussion took place on the position created by the East African Government's temporary restrictions on the immigration of Indians. I do not repeat here the history of these immigration regulations up to the last Session of the Council of State. If any of the Honourable Members desire further information on any matter of detail I will be only too glad to furnish it later on.

In February and March of this year certain regulations were sprung upon us more or less as a surprise by the Colonial Governments of Tanganyika, Kenya and Uganda. The regulations disallowed the entry of non-natives into these colonies without a permit from their Government. They are to apply without any discrimination to all non-native immigrants and are a purely temporary wartime measure. Normal residents in the colonies are however exempted from the scope of the regulations provided they have not been absent from the colonies for more than two years from the date of the enforcement of these regulations.

When first received, these regulations appeared to be of a comparatively innocuous character. They appeared to be only an extension of the restrictions on the issue of passports which had been introduced in December 1942 without any popular objection, for keeping down the floating population of the colonies as a wartime measure. We had no reason to presume that the measure contemplated interference with the free movement of Indians who are normal residents or have vested interests in those colonies.

Soon after the introduction of the regulations, protests however poured in from East African Indians as well as Indian organisations interested in East Africa. We have made repeated representations to the Colonial Governments and brought to their notice the facts and considerations urged in the various representations received from Indian leaders and also disclosed in the course of the debate in the Council of State. The present position arising out of the representations that have met with some response so far, is as follows.

(a) The Colonial Governments have agreed that entry permits will be granted to all *bona fide* residents of the colonies even though they may have been absent from the colonies for more than 2 years from the date of the enforcement of the Regulations.

(b) The Secretary of State for Colonies after consultation with the three Colonial Governments has now given us the assurance—through the Secretary of State for India—that the Regulations in question in all the three colonies are purely for meeting war-time conditions and are not intended to be permanent.

We realise that the public apprehension that these Regulations are a prelude to a further attempt to the permanent exclusion of Indians from the colonies is understandable. This aspect of the matter has a historical background. The Regulations were also sprung as a surprise on the Indian community and the Government of India was much hurried in the matter. For the present, however, there is no reason to question the genuineness of the assurance that has been given to us that the Regulations will not be made permanent. I can only assure the House that Government shall keep a vigilant eye on all future developments and step in to take remedial measures as soon as there are indications that the Regulations are being prolonged unduly. We have also taken up with the Colonial Governments any hard cases in which permits have been refused and I am glad to say that we have been successful in securing permits in certain recent cases.

I should however inform the House that in any case we are not resting content with the assurance received so far. We have urged upon the Colonial Governments that there are no valid reasons why normal residents of the colonies should even have to submit to the necessity of obtaining permits for

returning to their homes or for looking after their interests in the colonies. We have also forwarded to the Secretary of State for India copies of the debates in the Council of State and have urged most strongly that the following action must now be taken by the three Colonial Governments

(a) All normal residents (including their families and dependents) in the colonies as well as Indians possessing vested interests in the colonies should be immediately exempted from the operation of the Regulations irrespective of their periods of absence from the colonies

(b) Such new personnel as has to emigrate to the colonies to replace or reinforce the business staff of the Indians should be immediately exempted from the operation of the Regulations

(c) Even as regards other entirely new entrants the Regulations should be withdrawn as soon as possible

In any case the Regulations should not be renewed after the expiry of their present term. We have urged the Secretary of State for India to take up our representations with the Secretary of State for the Colonies and move the Governments of the three colonies to reconsider the whole matter and take immediately the action proposed by us

As the number of new immigrants has been automatically reduced by war-time conditions particularly by shipping difficulties, we have concentrated on having the ban on the movements of the normal residents removed. We expect that all normal residents, irrespective of their period of absence from their colonial homes, should be able to obtain permits for return automatically. Government will be grateful if any cases where difficulties are experienced are brought to our notice

We are awaiting a further reply from His Majesty's Government and I can assure the House that the matter will continue to receive our closest and most vigilant attention. The Regulations have been enacted for one year for the present and that period is due to expire within the next three or four months. The Government of India would make every possible effort to prevent the extension of these Regulations. We are much handicapped by the lack of an agent in these colonies and I shall be grateful if gentlemen like my Honourable friend Mr. Hoesseinbhoy Lalljee and his colleagues always keep us informed of any developments regarding which they may have any information. I hope, Sir, that the House will be satisfied that we have done all we could and that we are not likely to relax the pressure that we have continued to exert on the Colonial Governments

An amendment has been moved asking us to apply the Reciprocity Act to East Africa as well by my Honourable friend Mr. Hoesseinbhoy Lalljee, who is, if I may say so, an expert on these matters. I want to state here, Sir, that we have achieved something so far through negotiations and we are hoping for some good results through the correspondence which we have begun through His Majesty's Government. It is not therefore very proper to apply the Reciprocity Act to East Africa at this stage. I would, however, assure the House that I will not shrink or flinch for a single moment if that necessity unfortunately arises

Sir, now I will come to the position in South Africa which is exercising our minds for the last sixteen months or more since I have taken up this office. The House will recall that in February this year when my Honourable friend Dr. Deshmukh tabled an adjournment motion to discuss the Indian question in South Africa I told the House that nothing would be lost and something might be gained by postponing further discussion of the matter on that occasion. I hope the House will accept my assurance that when I made that statement I had good reasons to hope that the Union Government were making genuine efforts for a settlement of the question which might be acceptable to us

In March, the Union Government appointed a Judicial Commission which had been foreshadowed in the speech of Mr. Lawrence, Minister of the Interior, introducing the Pegging Bill. Mr. Justice Broome was appointed Chairman and two leading Indians were appointed as members of the Commission. The terms of reference to the Commission were:

[Dr N B Khare]

To enquire into and report upon matters affecting the Indian community of the province of Natal, with special reference to housing and health needs, civic amenities, civic status and provision of adequate residential, educational, religious and recreational facilities, and to make recommendations generally as to what steps are necessary further to implement the uplift clauses of the Cape Town Agreement of 1927, and as to all matters affecting the well-being and advancement of the permanent population of Natal.

The local Indian community was on the whole inclined to give this Commission a chance. About this time we also had information that Field-Marshal Smuts was going to receive a representative deputation of the Natal Indian Congress. We did not wish to impede the course of these negotiations. We have always been opposed to any statutory measure of segregation of Indians but, in view of the long-standing and deep-seated racial friction prevailing in the country, we did not desire to stand in the way of a compromise being worked out which the local Indian community might accept voluntarily.

I had, however, noted the intense feeling on the subject which the House had given expression to. Soon after the House dispersed in the first week of April, we therefore made it perfectly clear to the Union Government that Indian opinion would not be satisfied except by concrete action and unless the discussions, which had been initiated between the Union Government and representatives of the Indian community, resulted, within a reasonable time, in some solution acceptable to us, we would be compelled to take counter-measures. The House will recall that a public announcement was made by the Union Government on the 19th April that an agreement had been reached by them with the representatives of the Natal Indian Congress. The announcement was to the following effect:

"Discussions took place as the result of representations made by Indian Congress to find an alternative method of controlling occupation of dwellings in towns and boroughs in Natal to that adopted under the Pegging Act. It was agreed that the situation would best be met by the introduction of an ordinance into the Natal Provincial Council. This ordinance would provide for the creation of a board consisting of two Europeans and two Indians under the chairmanship of a third European, who would be a man with legal training. The object of the legislation would be to create a machinery for a board to control occupation by licensing of dwellings in certain areas, and application of Pegging Act in Durban will be withdrawn by Proclamation on passing of this ordinance."

This agreement was reached on the 18th April and has been known as the Pietermaarsburg Agreement. On the 19th April, His Excellency the Viceroy also received a message from Field-Marshal Smuts, which, we thought, clinched the agreement. This message has already been published in the press, but I may perhaps reproduce it in the House. It runs thus:

"At meeting on April 18th between Prime Minister and Minister for Interior and representative of Natal Indian Congress it was unanimously agreed that legislation be immediately introduced into Natal Provincial Council to provide for a joint board of five consisting of two Europeans and two Indians, with a European chairman, whose functions it will be to license the occupation of dwelling in areas within borough and town in Natal. On passing of ordinance the application of the Pegging Act in Durban will be withdrawn by proclamation. This agreement provides a fair solution of trouble which has arisen in connection with the Pegging Act and will, I trust, be as welcome to your excellency as it has been to me."

According to the terms of this agreement, the Licensing Board of mixed composition was to control residential occupation in areas when the question of racial proximity arose. Apart from this control and regulation of future juxtapositional residential occupation of Europeans and Indians, there were to be no further restrictions on Indian interests in land. All restrictions other than this contained in the Pegging Act were thus to be withdrawn. In particular it was made clear that there was to be no restriction on the right of Indians to acquire properties of any kind in the country.

The agreement had the approval of an overwhelming majority of the working committee of the Natal Indian Congress. Only 14 communist members out of a body of 81 dissociated themselves from the agreement. On the whole opinion in India also favoured giving the agreed compromise a chance to work. Our immediate demand was that an alternative solution acceptable to both sides

should be found early and that unless this was done the Pegging legislation should be repealed, or, if that would take time, the areas affected by it should be deproclaimed. We felt that the agreement went far to meet this demand. We did not regard the solution embodied in the agreement as ideal, but as it was accepted by a majority of the local Indians and as, for the first time, the Union Government also accepted the principle of dealing with such matters by voluntary agreement in preference to statutory compulsion, we acquiesced in the agreement and decided to give it a chance.

By the end of April, however, reactionary European elements in Natal began to organise opposition to the agreement. We immediately took steps to draw the attention of the Union Government to the attempts made in this connection to go back on the Pretoria Agreement. About the middle of May, the prospects of legislative implementation of the agreement appeared to be more hopeful. Information, however, reached us that the legislation was not likely to be introduced before August and we conveyed to the Union Government our uneasiness at this delay. The European agitation did not abate, but went on hardening progressively. The demand of the Europeans was that the provision for the control of acquisition of property which exists in the Pegging Act should also be incorporated in the Ordinance. In the first week of June we therefore again conveyed strong representations to the Union Government. A definite improvement followed soon after. The Occupation Control Ordinance, the draft of which was approved by the Natal Indian Congress, was published in the official gazette and was put down for consideration before a special session of the Provincial Council on the 19th June. We had also a further reassuring message from the Union Government that the passage of the Ordinance would be expedited.

On the 19th June the Ordinance was, however, only referred to a Select Committee after the first reading. This was a definite set-back to our hopes and we did not fail to urge on the Union Government our demand for expediting the legislation without any radical alterations.

Field-Marshal Smuts had left for London on the 21st April. In order to leave Field-Marshal Smuts free to deal with the European opposition we decided not to huddle the Union Government. The hopes we entertained about Field-Marshal Smuts using his personal influence did not, however, materialise. He returned to South Africa on the 1st July from the Prime Ministers' conference and visited Durban in the last week of July. It soon became clear that he was not prepared to deliver the goods, presumably with a view to avoiding a split in his ministerial party over the ordinance. About the 1st September we therefore addressed further representations and made it clear that we would not brook further delay. We were then given an assurance that the draft Ordinance would be taken up for consideration on the 17th October. Having waited so long, we decided to wait a few weeks more.

On the 17th October the Select Committee's report which was unanimous was presented to the Provincial Council and the House is aware of the developments that have occurred since then. The draft Ordinance as amended by the Select Committee contained radical alterations and contravened the Pretoria Agreement in several important respects. Let me explain the general position in plain language.

Under the Pegging Act occupation and acquisition of "any land or premises" could be allowed only on a permit issued by the (Union) Minister of the Interior. Under the Pretoria Agreement and the original Natal Occupation Ordinance, which was drafted in conformity with its terms, only occupation of any dwelling for residential purposes required a license to be granted by the licensing board (Occupation Control Board) of mixed composition. All other restrictions on occupation and all restrictions on acquisition contained in the Pegging Act were to be withdrawn. Under the amended Ordinance occupation and acquisition of residential properties can be allowed only on a license issued by the licensing board. The provision for the control of acquisition of residential property is

[Dr N B Khare]

thus a definite departure from the Pretorial Agreement and the original draft Ordinance

Licensing Board's control (of occupation and acquisition of residential property) is to be extended immediately to boroughs and townships throughout the province. Under the Agreement and the original Ordinance this control was to be extended to local bodies other than the Durban borough only on the recommendation of the provincial licensing board. Under the Agreement and the original Ordinance in granting licenses for occupation the licensing board had to make allowance for, *inter alia*, natural residential expansion of either racial group into contiguous streets, roads or localities. This is omitted from the amended Ordinance under which licensing boards will have to take into account the views of local bodies and any scheme of town planning adopted or contemplated by them. This provision is obviously designed for facilitating the carrying out of plans of racial zoning. The amended Ordinance thus departs from the Agreement and the original Ordinance in these respects also.

It is true that the amended Ordinance provides for agreement being reached by the majority of rate-payers of the two racial groups regarding occupation and acquisition of residential and other properties by each group. The licensing boards will not exercise any control over occupation of residential properties in areas regarding which such agreement is reached. A majority of European rate-payers is not, however, likely to be a party to an agreement which does not make for the largest measure of segregation of the Indian population. A majority of Indians is also unlikely to be a party to such agreement. In practice, therefore, such agreement is not likely to be reached in most places. The net result would thus be that the jurisdiction of licensing boards will extend to most if not all, boroughs and townships.

In the face of these radical alterations the Union Government have made the amazing statement that the amended Ordinance does not go back on the spirit of the Pretoria Agreement. Although not surrendering their inherent right, the Indians agreed, in deference to the thoroughly unreasonable sentiment of the European community, to the regulation of occupation of property for residential purposes in urban areas where the question arises of Indians living in close proximity to Europeans. I should state for the information of the House that on the eve of the Agreement in April the Natal Indian Congress presented to Field-Marshal Smuts a memorandum setting out their demands. In response to a request made by the Congress for exchange of letters embodying the terms of the Pretoria Agreement this memorandum, read with the Union Govern-

ment's public statement of the 18th April, which I have already quoted, was confirmed as the Pretoria Agreement in a message sent by Senator Clarkson, Minister of the Interior, to Senator Shepstone. Field-Marshal Smuts' telegram of the 18th April to His Excellency the Viceroy also referred to control of only *occupation* as the object of the Agreement. The original draft Ordinance which had the concurrence of Indian representatives, and was published in the Provincial Gazette on 2nd June, also provided for the regulation and licensing of *occupation* only. The new provisions regarding control are also to be extended immediately to boroughs and townships throughout the Natal Province except a few to be excluded by administrative action. The House will thus see that the control of acquisition and some of the other provisions obviously involve a violation of the Pretoria Agreement. We also understand that the amended Ordinance is to be one of a number of measures for a comprehensive long-term programme of town extension and racial zoning. A new provision is being made by a housing board ordinance under which the housing board to be set up should have the right of pre-empting properties offered for sale to Indians in European quarters. From the new measures it also appears that the Union Government are now not willing to await the results of the labour of the Broome Commission which has been still investigating this very problem of better housing facilities for Indians.

Field-Marshal Smuts may have his political difficulties, but we have always understood that the Union Government's concurrence in the Pretoria Agreement connoted as a necessary corollary their guarantee to ensure the enactment of implementing legislation. Had they the will to honour their pledge, it would have been quite open to the Union Government to have the necessary legislation enacted by the Union Parliament. I should tell the House that we have not failed to urge upon the Union Government this alternative also. They have, however, disregarded our representations in this respect.

The Pegging legislation, though applicable to the whole province, has been actually enforced only in the borough of Durban so far. Being temporary we had some hope that segregation would not be made a live issue in the rest of the province. The control of occupation which the Pretoria Agreement and the first draft of the Ordinance provided for was also to be actually applied only to the borough of Durban, though it was applicable formally to other parts of the province. The revised Ordinance is, however, to be brought into force, and the full apparatus of licensing board to be set up *ab initio* in the entire province. The right of unfettered acquisition which was to be restored by the Agreement is now thrown overboard. The new measure is therefore more far-reaching and retrograde in several respects than the Pegging Act. Far from using their influence to provide an alternative solution of the limited racial problem in the borough of Durban, the Union Government have now gone back on the Pretoria Agreement and presented us with a scheme which only reveals a concerted plan for the wholesale segregation of Indians in the entire province of Natal. I should state for the information of the House that, apart from an Anti-Asiatic Clause in certain transfers of properties between Europeans, there were no restrictions in the Natal Province on the right of Indians to occupy and acquire lands prior to the Pegging legislation of 1949. The Durban borough has the largest concentration of Indian population. The only two other urban centres with any considerable concentration of Indian population are Pietermaritzburg and Ladysmith. Neither in the two latter centres nor in any other areas (except of course, Durban borough) has an issue been made of the question of Indian penetration. The amended Ordinance has thus been sprung as a surprise on the Indian community. The House is aware that the Indian community has rejected the amended Ordinance as entirely unacceptable to them in view of its contravention of the terms of the Agreement. The House is also aware that the third reading of the Bill was passed in the Natal Council on the 1st of November. It is now due for presentation to the Governor General for his consent.

This is the history of the efforts we have been able to make since the last Session of the House to secure the withdrawal of the Pegging legislation. I have made a detailed statement, even to the extent of boring the House, to facilitate a proper appreciation of the position now reached. I hope the House will agree that I have maintained incessant vigilance over the interests of our ill-fated countrymen in this dominion and have done all we could with all the limitations and difficulties under which our Government have to work. The House is aware that the chronicle of the sufferings, hardships and above all the humiliation of our countrymen in South Africa is long and tragic. I gave a detailed account in the statement I made in the House on the 30th July last year. I therefore felt that all possible resources of negotiation and compromise should be exhausted. While pursuing this course, we have, as already explained by me, made it perfectly plain to the Union Government that unless a satisfactory solution were evolved, we would have no alternative left to taking counter-measures. This latest attempt at racial segregation of Indians is but one of the many discriminatory measures which have been forged by the Union Government to keep fresh perpetually the brand of racial inferiority on our nationals in the country of their adoption. The House is aware that our nationals have been voiceless in South Africa for many years. Although these major grievances of Indians remain untouched, we decided to give the Pretoria Agreement our moral support and did our best to maintain an atmosphere favourable to its implementation.

[Dr N B Khare]

Our forbearance has been misunderstood and measures are now about to be placed on the statute book which, according to all the information we have had, will seal the fate of our countrymen for generations to come. Honourable Members have no doubt read in the Press the impassioned appeal made to the Natal Provincial Council the other day in this connection by Mr Kajece, the redoubtable leader of our oppressed Nationals in South Africa.

The House will no doubt ask me—what shall we do now? I would like to put the same question to the House. I know the persistent demand from all sections of the House and repeated throughout the length and breadth of India is that we should retaliate. Let me tell the House at once that the Government of India as a whole, and in this I include all my Honourable Colleagues and His Excellency the Viceroy, have been as amazed as the House and our countrymen at the Union Government going back on an Agreement into which they solemnly entered with the Indian community. The Government of India since in the fullest measure the indignation and resentment which this exhibition of racialism on the part of a fellow member of the British Commonwealth has created in this country. Sir, we all have our own views on the political status and future of our country as a member of the British Commonwealth, but so far as this attack on the honour and self-respect of our country and nationals is concerned, I think I can say with confidence that there is absolutely no difference of opinion as regards what we all feel about it. With all the defects of our political status as a unit in the British Empire and with all our quarrels with His Majesty's Government in this connection, I believe that the overwhelming majority of our countrymen think that during this global war we should stand by the Commonwealth, or else we may be thrown out of the firing pin into the fire. Mr Gandhi, also, Sir, has come down from his high pedestal has suspended the civil disobedience movement and is now prepared to advise the Congress to offer the fullest co-operation with the Government, in this war on radically altered and much attenuated conditions. I believe it is this general instinct which has led the thinking elements of our countrymen to adopt a truce in our internal political warfare and not to do anything to unpan the contribution of two millions of our fighting men,—who have been acclaimed throughout the Commonwealth as constituting the largest voluntary army in the world,—towards the emancipation of the civilised world from Fascist tyranny. The Union of South Africa is also a constituent part of this Commonwealth.

Sir Syed Raza Ali (Cities of the United Provinces, Mahammad Urban) Is the Honourable Member sure that the Union Government is also within the Commonwealth?

The Honourable Dr N. B. Khare That is a matter of inference.

Sir Syed Raza Ali I thought it was not.

The Honourable Dr N. B. Khare We draw that inference. They have, however, thought fit to cast to the winds the interests of the civilised world and to wage to the bitter end a racial warfare against the nationals of a fellow member of the Commonwealth, many of whom have shed their blood in preventing the extension of the ravages and devastation of this war to their very country.

Sir, the United Nations are fighting this war against what they call Hitlerite principle. It is an irony of fate and a tragic situation that the country which is supposed to be doing so is applying the same Hitlerite principles to our nationals although we have a common object. So, our patience is now completely exhausted and the whole nation is in a mood of desperation.

I may now inform the House that we have already told the Union Government in the plainest and most unequivocal terms, that the Government of India now hold themselves free to take such counter-measures as they can. Had our nationals been really accepted and treated as full citizens of the country of their adoption—towards the growth and prosperity of which they have made vast contributions—the attitude of the Union Government might have been intelligible. In view, however, of their latest exhibition of callousness the Government of India

cannot possibly divest themselves of their moral responsibility for the welfare of their nationals in this ill-fated country. They, therefore, refuse to be a helpless spectator of the decision of the Union Government to relegate the large and progressive Indian population in Natal to a position of permanent inferiority.

On a former occasion I have told the House that the surgeon's knife will have to be applied if and when necessary. I may inform the House that we have therefore already issued a notification applying to the Union of South Africa the Reciprocity Act, passed by this House last year. This notification imposes on South African citizens of non-Indian origin the principal disabilities from which Indians suffer in South Africa. The imposition of a few other disabilities is under consideration and a decision will be taken immediately. So long the Government of India have only gone on holding out threats of counteraction and I am glad to be able to say that we have made at any rate a beginning in action.

I note, Sir, that two of the Honourable Members have also suggested the recall of the High Commissioner and enforcement of economic sanctions. I would want a little more time to take a decision on the question of the recall of the High Commissioner. I hope the House will accept my assurance that the presence of our High Commissioner in South Africa is of some advantage to our nationals there. I personally believe that his recall will be a great tactical blunder. Honourable Members will agree that a decision on this matter requires the most careful consideration, but I have no intention of taking any unduly long time over it.

Sir Syed Raza Ali: I do not want to interrupt my Honourable friend, but may I know whether the High Commissioner gave evidence before the Provincial Council of Natal or before the Select Committee set up by that House? As the Honourable Member knows, the Select Committee is empowered in South Africa to take evidence. Did the High Commissioner give evidence?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: I believe he did not.

Sir Syed Raza Ali: Why not?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: That is my information. I have no other information.

The Government of India have also been considering most actively the question of enforcing economic sanctions. This is a step the repercussions of which require the most careful consideration. The fact that I am not able to make an immediate announcement on this measure does not mean that I or my colleagues have approached it in any spirit of hesitancy or pusillanimity. A comprehensive and as up-to-date as may be possible examination of the implications of the commercial relations between the two countries is essential and we would want a short time for it. Here, again, I can assure the House that I have no intention of delaying unduly our final decision. We are striving to reach a decision as soon as possible and our decision will be announced immediately after it is taken.

None of us is in a position to forecast what the possible effects will be of the action that we have already taken and the measures which we have under active consideration. Some may estimate that the action taken is nothing else but a rubber nipple without the nalk. Our counter-measures may or may not have any effect on a member of the Commonwealth whose racial arrogance has been raised to white heat even during the gravest crisis in the throes of which the Commonwealth is now involved. After all is said and done, Sir, we cannot get away from the fact that politically and internationally our position is weak. The Union Government have some experience of what the weak and the oppressed can do for resisting injustice. Indians were practically enjoined into proceeding to South Africa, generations ago, for the exploitation and development of the country by the white settlers. The extent of their contribution towards the growth and prosperity of that country is well-known to the world, yet a fellow-member of the Commonwealth has thought fit to choose this moment to forge a plan of segregation of Indians which will, in the words of Mr. Kaye, "establish on generations yet unborn racial animosities and prejudices which are the seeds of conflict and war". We must declare throughout

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the Commonwealth and the civilised world, in the plainest and most unequivocal terms, that we are determined not to submit to this racial arrogance, and weak as we are and limited as our powers are, we shall resort to all such overtures as are open to us to give shape to our determination. The civilised world must know how those at the helm of the affairs of a country in the Commonwealth who are so loud in their professions about a beatific post-war world order are treating the nationals of a country whose relative contribution towards the world war is second to that of no other country fighting side by side with the United Nations. Sir, if the professed war and peace aims are true and if really this war is being fought for the liberation of humanity from thralldom, it is inevitable that all people of this world must get then Sovereign equality and under these conditions any discrimination based on race or religion or colour or caste must disappear throughout the United Nations. The Union of South Africa may laugh in their sleeves because our counter-measures may misfire or fall flat, as they may. But our determination and action to resist this insult to our honour will not rest and end here. Hatred and arrogance can only beget counter-hatred and counter arrogance.

Sir, it has fallen to the lot of a medico, as my humble self is, to inoculate the body-politic of India with the anti-toxin of retaliation. I hope it will generate sufficient resistance in her to fight against this virus of racial arrogance and animosity wherever it may be. The nation-wide determination for retaliation will go on smouldering for years and through generations to come. Some day or other—and we are all hoping that it will be sooner than later—India will come into her own and be in a position to take more effective action against those who persist in assailing her national honour and self respect. Our efforts to resist such insults will certainly attain fruition then.

Sir Syed Raza Ali May I ask the Honourable Member whether the rules that the Government of India were to make under the amended Reciprocity Act have been published by them?

The Honourable Dr. N B Khare A notification has been issued by the Government of India in the *Gazette Extraordinary* but the rules have not yet been published.

Mr Govind V. Deshmukh (Nagpur Division Non-Muhammadian) Have they been made on all the points?

The Honourable Dr. N B Khare On most of the points.

Sir, these questions show how deep the feeling of resentment in this country is. It was suggested in some quarters that since one of the reasons why the British Government went to war against the Boers in South Africa in the early part of this century was the bad treatment they were giving to Indians there, the British Government should now repudiate the Dominion Constitution conferred upon South Africa and appoint a Royal Commission to enquire into the maladministration and the injustices done by the South African Government against Indians, Africans and even against Europeans. It is not for me to suggest measures to be taken by His Majesty's Government. They claim to be our trustees and I am bound to say that no trustee in the world can afford for any length of time to watch with supreme indifference and supineness, while his ward is being insulted and assaulted for the very simple reason that in the very process of natural evolution, as time goes on, the ward is bound to attain the status of an independent entity himself. Sir, I move.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) Motion moved.

"That the position of Indians in South Africa and East Africa be taken into consideration."

All the amendments will be moved first and then discussion will proceed on the original motion as well as the Amendments.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh (Bombay City Non-Muhammadian Urban) Sir I move.

"That the following be added at the end of the motion

and having considered the matter, this House is of opinion that the Government of India should forthwith exercise the Powers under the Reciprocity Acts (viz., Act IX of 1943) as

amended by Act XXII of 1943) against the Nationals of South Africa's Union not being of Indian origin and should immediately recall the High Commissioner for India in South Africa."

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) Amendment moved

"That the following be added at the end of the motion
'and having considered the matter, this House is of opinion that the Government of India should forthwith exercise the Powers under the Reciprocity Acts (i.e., Act IX of 1943 as amended by Act XXII of 1943) against the Nationals of South Africa's Union not being of Indian origin and should immediately recall the High Commissioner for India in South Africa'."

Mr. Hooseinbhoy A. Lalljee (Bombay Central Division Muhammadan Ruarl) Sir, I move

"That the following be added at the end of the motion
'and because of the continuous racial discrimination policy against Indians adopted by the Union of South Africa and by the East African Governments of Kenya, Uganda and Tanganyika, this House is of opinion that the Government of India should forthwith enforce Economic Sanctions against those countries and exercise the powers under the Reciprocity Acts (i.e., Act IX of 1943 as amended by Act XXII of 1943) against the Nationals of those countries'."

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) Amendment moved

"That the following be added at the end of the motion
'and because of the continuous racial discrimination policy against Indians adopted by the Union of South Africa and by the East African Governments of Kenya, Uganda and Tanganyika, this House is of opinion that the Government of India should forthwith enforce Economic Sanctions against those countries and exercise the powers under the Reciprocity Acts (i.e., Act IX of 1943 as amended by Act XXII of 1943) against the Nationals of those countries'."

Dr. Govind V. Deshmukh: Sir, I move

"That in the amendment proposed by Mr Hooseinbhoy A Lalljee, after the word 'Nationals' the following words be inserted
'not being of Indian origin'."

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) Amendment moved

"That in the amendment proposed by Mr Hooseinbhoy A Lalljee, after the word 'Nationals' the following words be inserted
'not being of Indian origin'."

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: Is there any time limit for speeches?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) There is no time limit, unless the House wants it

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed (Leader of the House) Sir, the House will remember that it has got to adjourn at four of the clock to discuss the Motion for Adjournment. So we have very limited time. I think all Parties ought to decide among themselves as to how much time should be allotted to each speaker, otherwise, I am afraid there will be tremendous difficulties at the end.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) Just now it has been suggested to me by the Whip of the Congress Party that fifteen minutes be fixed for each speaker.

Sir Syed Raza Ali: It seems to me that it is too early to fix a time limit now. It may be that it will be necessary to enforce the time limit later on. It is true that today we have to finish this debate at four of the clock because we have to take up the Adjournment Motion. We have got two hours. Further, I hope the Honourable the Leader of the House will consider whether, if this Motion is not finished today, he can give us 1½ hours or two hours some other day. This is a most important debate. That is all I can say. Public opinion should not be stifled on a question of this character.

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: There is no question of stifling the debate. I consulted Party Leaders and they agreed with me that a day be allotted for this debate. I simply point this out to show that there is no question of stifling the discussion. The House has to take up the Adjournment Motion at four o'clock. Nobody suggested to me that there should be another day allotted for this Debate, otherwise, I would have suggested that there might be a reduction in the period for the Food Debate. We might

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allot two days for the South Africa Debate and one day for Food, just as you like. Otherwise you will have to be satisfied with this.

Sir Syed Raza Ali: We can continue this on some other day.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: Sir, I do not want to take up more time than is absolutely necessary on this painful and shameful subject. Sir, I am sure the speech of the Honourable Member in charge is very encouraging but I own to mixed feelings in moving this motion. I admit that there is a sense of frustration in this motion, not only a sense of frustration that I have in my mind but combined with a sense of frustration there is also a feeling of resentment at the injustice done to my countrymen in a place which has been developed mainly by their labour. At the same time I must say that I am not sorry that the South African Union has raised this question at the present time, because while the fight for freedom is going on they have raised an issue which will settle the position of India and of the Asiatic nations in the framework of the so-called Commonwealth of Nations. At the same time, combined with these I cannot resist a sense of shame at the weak-kneed policy of this mighty Government of India, the flabbiness of spine, the procrastination and the laziness with which

An Honourable Member: Have they any spine?

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: There is a spine but there is flabbiness in it, although this mighty Government is run by a varnor Viceroy at its head.

Sir, this question of South Africa is a very painful one. You will remember that Natal, the plague-spot of all this trouble, has been developed by Indians, and that the Natal administrators have themselves admitted this but for Indian labour and but for Indian hands the prosperity of the colony could never have been produced. You will see how painful the subject must be to their countrymen on the floor of the House today. It is astonishing that the Government of India should have kept such a childish and blind faith in these people of South Africa in expecting that deputations and round table conferences or agreements and promises made by these people will be kept by them. First a labourer went to develop this colony, then to give comfort to these labouring people a small petty trader from India followed him. Naturally after a certain time this poor trading class amassed a certain amount of competence and wealth with which they managed to acquire a certain amount of property in the colony. But you will find that right from the beginning, as soon as their purpose was served, this white population of South Africa could not resist the temptation of having the whole of the profit to themselves, reducing the Indian by whose efforts the whole prosperity was achieved to a state of slavery and what in euphemistic language may be called the policy of segregation. This policy of segregation is not new, it is stamped on the policy of South Africans right from the beginning. It may have been camouflaged by many words and by the attempt of the South African to reduce the Indian there to a state of poverty by means of restrictions on licenses, charging a certain fee on trade licenses, etc. This attempt was made to reduce the petty trader so that he may not own any property. What is the meaning of the ordinances and regulations which forced the petty trader to have licenses only under penalties and that he shall not carry on trade on the proclaimed land,—the so-called gold law of South Africa? You can even see that right from the very beginning these people had no other object in view except gold and wealth and nothing else, nothing of the honourable sentiments that should exist in the hearts of ordinary human beings. How was this labour which produced this prosperity in Natal at the beginning treated subsequently? The same labour after a certain period was tried to be replaced by the so-called white labour policy. So far as labour is concerned, so late as your Pretoria Agreement this white labour policy was enforced, and if the labour that produced the prosperity of the colony was tried to be replaced by a white labour policy, I have no hesitation in saying that so far as the South African policy with regard to the Indians in South Africa is concerned it is a white

leper policy. It is nothing but a disease, as odious as leprosy, which is afflicting the Indian community in South Africa. How are we going to light it out? My Honourable friend the Member in charge is a medico and he should understand that in the medical line inoculation is not the only way of treatment. Inoculation is a very slow process which may or may not succeed, according to the vitality of the individual in which it is inoculated. We know the vitality of this country as it is governed by a foreign power, by a white Government, it is a white Government in spite of the presence of my countrymen on those benches. Does he expect this inoculation treatment to succeed? No, Sir, there are other treatments in medicine and one of them is the surgical treatment. Whenever you find a foul festering part of the body, the only way is to cut it out and I hope

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: I have done both

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: I shall be very happy when it sees the light of day. We have had too long of promises, of rules being made, the Reciprocity Act having been passed, and so on, but I am not nourished on the faith that whatever the Government members say in this House will be carried out or is going to be carried out.

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: They have been already applied

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: I will take the assurance of the Honourable Member that all these have been applied. But, as I said, with all the efforts of my valiant friend I do not think he will be able to succeed in bringing any of the measures that he would like to. Therefore, Sir, what I propose for this festering sore of the so-called Commonwealth of Nations is not a slow policy. We have had enough of this. I say this festering and foul sore has to be disposed of, so far as we are concerned, as soon as possible. We have tried all the different methods. The wars came and the wars seem to be passing away, we may be approaching the end of the war. But during all these periods what has been the attitude of these South Africans? To reduce us economically to a condition of slavery and, so far as the Asiatic races are concerned, to segregate us and to brand on our brow the perpetual mark of slavery. I should have very much liked my Honourable friend to persuade his Government to take the same steps as were taken in the case of another European nation who had the impertinence and the inhumanity to go down to Africa for another brown or black nation, to bomb it from the air, to take their lands and their property, and I am proud to say that that Italian nation was knocked out by Indian regiments and Indian regiments alone. Can my Honourable friend say that this Government will ever be prepared to knock the stuffing out of these South African races and will ask his Government to send Indian regiments to drive some sense into the heads of these South African people? Will he be able to do so? If not, why not? On lesser pretexts than these, wars have been declared between nations. Even at the time of the Boer War we know one of the Home Secretaries said that it filled him with indignation to see the treatment meted out by the Boers to the Indians in this colony. I say there have been worse provocations than what the Boers gave to the Indians, in a part of the Commonwealth by the white part of that Commonwealth in this affair. And yet my Honourable friend knows that he cannot do anything. And if he cannot take these measures what is the good of telling us that they will be able to do this and do that? I wish very much, and I would pray, that the Indian Regiments which knocked the cuts out of the Italian Nation, which took out macaroni from of Mussolini, might be sent down to South Africa, and then you will not have the Pegging Act, you will not have the Pretoria Agreement, you will not have the Capetown Agreement, you will not have the Control of Occupation Act, you will not have the Regulation of Residences Act. Nobody will dare to challenge what part of Africa we occupy, when we occupy and what we occupy. We would have got it by spilling our blood and yet what are the South Africans talking about? South African colonials owe everything to Indians. In 1914-15, I myself treated Indian officers who had been to South

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Africa to help the South Africans to retain South Africa for these colonials. Have not we known that even in this war India has helped the colonials to retain South Africa, and yet we have to keep quiet? Why? Our blood is valuable for this Commonwealth, our labour is valuable, but our dignity, our honour cannot be upheld by this Commonwealth, and, I am very sorry to say, by this weak-kneed Government of India. That being the case, I think we are perfectly justified in suggesting the measure that we have suggested. After all, if we cannot send our armed forces to drive sense into the heads of those people who treat us with indignity and dishonour, the least we can do is to show our disapproval. My Honourable friend says, "withdrawing the High Commissioner would be very bad tactics." Pray how is it going to be bad tactics? What purpose has this Commissioner served? So far as the popular opinion goes, he has served like a post-office box. You can put correspondence into that box.

An Honourable Member. Ask Sir Raza Ali if it is not so.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh. Is it worthwhile to incur these expenses? I am not really bothering about the expenses. Where the question of honour and dignity of our country is concerned, I am not concerned with the expenses at all. What I say is this. What purpose does this High Commissioner serve? I know that the appointment of the High Commissioner started from the time of the so-called Capetown Agreement, but, Sir, the South African colonials, as I have said, have no sense of honour, leave aside the sense of dignity and humanity. I remember, Sir, a long time ago, after the last war, I happened to read a speech made by their statesman, General Smuts, before the Scientists of British Medical Association, and I thought that there was the philosopher statesman who will guide the destinies of the Union, or wherever he could govern, on the lines of humanity and philosophy. But his philosophy seems to be all fraud, and I doubt whether his humanity may not be for getting rid of all the non-White population. This General Smuts who has the reputation of being a philosopher and statesman guarantees to the Indians that so far as the liberty is concerned that will be saved. And then he does not do anything to fulfil that promise although he is the Prime Minister in power. Instead I find that when a provincial council brings forward measures for segregation of Indians he has not got even the courtesy to receive an Indian Deputation. These are the doings of that philosopher-statesman on whom we have to rely. I would request my Honourable friend, Dr. Khare, not to rely on the professions and promises—whatever they may be—of these colonials because the history is very painful on this subject.

Sir, I will give you an example to illustrate my point. We had a parliamentary franchise in Natal. That parliamentary franchise was taken away with specious reasons and Municipal franchise was substituted. At the time when an attempt was made for this substitution what was the argument used? The argument used was that if you do away with parliamentary franchise you will have municipal franchise and you will be able to look after your community and society much better. I may mention for the information of this House that this parliamentary franchise was taken away in 1896. They said, in fact, that giving away of parliamentary franchise would strengthen the arrangements for sanitation and health of the Indian community. The parliamentary franchise was taken away on this pretext, and yet in 1925 the municipal franchise was also taken away. Then, Sir, they promised that if you agree to the limitation of immigration that the poll tax will be removed. It was in 1913-14 when our Indian leaders agreed to the limitation of immigration of Indians. But in spite of all that the poll tax was not removed. It needed a passive resistance movement to remove it. With regard to emigration again, after the Capetown Agreement, our Indian leaders agreed, in their childish faith and simplicity, to the emigration of colonials from this Union, in the hope that those who would be left over there—and this was the promise which was given—would get better facilities. Their future generation will

be better educated and the economic condition of those Indians will be better and there will be uplift of the Indian community in South Africa. What happened? Our representatives agreed to this emigration. The result is that this has been utilized for isolating these Indians in South Africa.

In this morning's paper I find an advice given by one of the responsible South-African gentlemen. It is this:

"Look here you Indians, 80 per cent of you are born in South Africa, only 20 per cent are Indians here, your interests are not with them. Why do you look to the Indians outside? You had better approach us and accept all our conditions, then we will see what we can do to make you comfortable and happy."

The result of this emigration has been to isolate the South African Indians from Indians at large so that it has become easier for them to destroy the Indians' anti-division. Sir, I do not want to go into all the details, but the point is this: you are dealing with a very fraudulent Government in South Africa which has no sense of honour, not even for their pledges. What is your Commissioner going to do by just remaining there? During all these years that we have been having our Commissioner in South Africa, he has been able to achieve absolutely nothing. Instead he is looked down upon as somebody who represents

An Honourable Member: Nobody.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: I would have been satisfied if he had represented nobody, but he represents a population which can be dishonoured, which can be trampled upon, which can be degraded. This is the kind of population that he represents. It is a constant reminder to the South Africans and a humiliation to us Indians at the way that our nationals are being treated in South Africa but it is an encouragement to the colonials that here is a Commissioner of a downtrodden people on whom we can trample upon. The Commissioner as he exists is a sign symbol or an emblem of the degradation of the Indian people at large and the sooner you remove him the better. It will be for the good of the honour of this country and what is more the South African people will know that now you are in earnest, that now you have not the same imbecile faith either in their Government or professions.

I am not one of those who say withdraw the Commissioner from South Africa and leave the field open for South Africans. Our experience of this withdrawal and leaving the field open for our opponents has been very bitter. I say that this withdrawal must be accompanied by aggressive tactics, by an attack, and that attack, we can have by the economic sanctions that we are in a position to impose.

Sir Syed Raza Ali: The rules have not been published yet!

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: My suggestion is to apply surgical methods of hacking and cutting as soon as you can. I hope he will succeed in applying them quickly to this problem of South Africa. I do not believe in this policy of withdrawing merely. We have suffered very bitterly by it. Whatever the qualifications of it may be from the ethical point of view, from a worldly point of view if we withdraw this Commissioner I want to send down our economic sanctions to South Africa. I know our wishes cannot be carried out. We would very much like the Indian regiments who have already wiped out one nation, the Italians, to be sent round to South Africa. But I know that that is not possible. If that is not possible let us do what we can in our power. I hope, Sir, that the economic sanctions will be applied as soon as and as quickly as we can. Let no base thoughts of trade or profit influence us where the honour of our country is concerned. I know some will say that the balance of trade is in favour of India and that we should not lose the profit. We will also be told that the population of 200,000 will be in a very bad way if we do not export grain to that country. I say that these considerations do not matter with me. They do not even matter with this Government when the question of honour comes in. We lost a trade four times or ten times as large when this Government declared war on Germany and other European nations without consulting us. That time we silently did forego all this profit and that was when this war was declared.

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rest assured that it has the full support and backing of the people of India. We have done all we can. We have tried every method from representation to delegation, pacts and agreements. None of these has succeeded. Now, Sir, our countrymen outside are looking to us to support them in a point which concerns the honour of our country. As I said, do not let any mundane base considerations of profit and other ordinary considerations influence us, but let us prove to the world at large, especially at a time when the war is being fought, when the position of coloured nations is at stake, when the position of coloured nations is such that in spite of all the high-sounding phrases, in practice, if this war means that we Asiatics are to be doomed to perpetual slavery then we must thank the South Africans for raising the issue at the present time. But I will not be satisfied merely by thanking the South Africans. Let us show we can oppose. Let us show that we can compel our Government to oppose if it is a question of honour of Asiatic nations in general, of our position in a Commonwealth, and in India in particular.

I commend my amendment to the House and I hope Sir that there will not be any Member here who will oppose it because it concerns the honour and dignity of my countrymen outside.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) I may now inform the House that it has been arranged with the Parties that the leaders or chief speakers of Parties will have half an hour and the other speakers twenty minutes. Otherwise the discussion cannot be conveniently finished.

Mr H A Sathar H. Essak Sait (West Coast and Nilgiris Muhammadan) The adjournment motion may be put off till to-morrow.

The Honourable Sir, Sultan Ahmed That question I have to discuss with the Mover of the motion. With your permission he will ask the House to allow him to move it to-morrow. He is not here just now.

Mr. Hoosenbhoy A Laljee I must thank the Commonwealth Relations Member for the lucid and brave speech he has made. The very fact that today it is our Indian Member who has made bold, after so many years, to point a little finger at a big nation is a great thing for India. It is a great thing for Indians who have been in East and South Africa suffering humiliations worse than anyone else in this world. They have suffered far more than the people of Europe for whom this war is raging.

Sir, with regard to East Africa, let me point out to my friends here certain facts and figures to prove to the hilt that this insidious move of the East African Government shows the prevalent mentality in that country to treat the Indians there in as light a manner as possible. What was the reason given for limiting the Indians' entry into East Africa? The reason was that owing to the exigencies of the war—(after it had lasted for four years)—we do not want a large influx of Indians into the country because of the food situation and because of the housing problem. That is the reason given and we

have proved to the Department of Overseas that this plea is nothing but a false one put forward by these Governments.

East Africa, Sir is well known to be one of the granaries of the world. Then you have to consider that so far as East Africa is concerned it is an acknowledged fact that we have been there since the 14th century. It is also an acknowledged fact that until 1811 not a single European soul ever reached there. In 1866 when Sir John Kirk went there he said that the entire business of the place was in the hands of Indians. It was only in 1895 that the British Government took over the administration there and it is now hardly fifty years.

You must have read the history of the highlands and the low lands but the most important thing to note is this. For so many human beings have all these things been done? There are in Kenya 40,000 Indians and the number of Europeans (I do not say Britishers) is 17,000. It is for these

17,000 Europeans that the whole of East Africa and the highlands and every thing else must be reserved. People talk of humanity and civilisation. I do not find my friend Mr Griffiths here. I would ask him to put these figures to the public in his National War Front propaganda. Now what do these Europeans want? They want for themselves all the highlands and there should be no Indians there, and, further more, at the sacrifice of not less than 30 lakhs of the native population there. The European population there includes South Africans, Germans and Italians. The South Africans are 40 per cent in the Parliament and they have been saying that if they got another 4 votes they will have drawn the Union Jack and make treaty with Germany. These are the people with whom my European friends, the Britishers, are co-operating to drive away the 30,000 Indians from there. The number of Indians that go to East Africa is hardly 4,000 a year and for these 4,000 the plea put forward is that there is no housing and what is worse that there are no foodstuffs! 17,000 tons of foodstuffs are being exported from East Africa every year but for these 4,000 poor Indians none is available.

This law has been brought forward against those people and yet my friend, the Honourable Member, would say that they have at his representations at least considered that those people who were there in East Africa and had come here but could not return within two years, were not going to be barred.

The Honourable Dr N. B. Khare: I have not said so at all.

Mr. Hosenbhai A. Lalljee: They were barred and I will put it that he has succeeded in inducing these great 17,000 Europeans to allow them to return. But even so far as the family members of those who go there are concerned, they have to take a special permission and my Honourable friend has said that he is trying his level best to have this removed and that actually he has succeeded in two cases. Annually about 4,000 for last 2 years, go there and about 30,000 return. Those are the official figures. For just therefore these 1,000 Indians the East African Europeans cannot find the food, though they can export as much as 17,000 tons every year to different parts of the world.

Now, take Tanganyika and Uganda. In Uganda, according to historical records, the Indian population was 13,026 and the European population was 2,001 and for this number Uganda must be kept for them. In Tanganyika Indians are 23,000 and the Europeans are 1,500 and still the latter do not want any Indians to go there and the excuse is there is a food shortage. Who can believe this? Who can tolerate this situation? Is there any honesty in the plea? It amounts to reminding us "You Indians are fighting for the freedom and liberty of others in the world, but fight for your own self first and get your liberty and rights. First fight for your own status and for your own honour. We are going to teach you by this treatment this lesson because you have not learnt it up to now." On the eve of the Boer War Lord Lansdowne, the then very responsible Minister, declared "Among the misdeeds of the South African Republic I do not know that any fills me with more indignation than its treatment of our Indian subjects." Has the situation changed now? Is it not worse than ever it was before? So far as East Africa is concerned what right have these people to make all these rules? They say "we have taken upon ourselves the responsibility of being trustees of these 30 lakhs of East African natives." But the fact is that not a single representative of theirs anywhere has any voice. They are represented by a reverend priest gentleman in the legislature. This position, the Europeans say, is in the natives' own interest and that is the only justification they can offer. The British went there in 1866 but it was not until 1895 that anybody except India bore the expenses of the administration and of the army of occupation there. It was the Government of India that was paying. See your own records. Indians have paid the cost of the administration for solid forty-eight years from their own purse, because they were there and were told that it was a legitimate charge on them. Even today if a census were taken the number of Britishers there would be a few hundreds out of 17,000 Europeans.

[Mr Hoosembhoy A. Laljee]

All this is being done in the name of capitalists, or rather in the name of all these European vested interests, and once my friend the Honourable the Commonwealth Relations Member allows this action against India to remain and to go on, I assure you it will not be for one year—it will ever remain there, and therefore in my amendment I have said—and I am very sorry to say, perhaps many members have not been able to understand my real motive in saying therein that I want sanctions to be applied against the East African Governments. Who are the East African Governments? My Secretary of State for the Colonies—I say 'my' because I am part and parcel of British Government, they being in the British Empire and not in the Commonwealth dominions, and I do want to apply sanctions if you can boldly do so against all Britishers who are governing the provinces or states of Kenya, Uganda and Tanganyika and if it pleases you, against even the British Government, if the British Government is not going to withdraw these orders but insist on them, I think it is but fair and right that we should see that the sanctions and the Reciprocity Act are applied. Under the constitution of 1935 we cannot make any discrimination against Britishers, neither are they entitled to do so, but so far as the Commonwealth is concerned, I think they are separate. But surely the colonial Governments are not separated, and if the British Government through the Colonial secretary allows discrimination against Indians, I say we can demand of the Secretary of State to ask in the British cabinet for sanctions against the British people there who are ruling these East African Governments of Kenya and Uganda and Tanganyika. Why do they allow this? Will they allow us to do that? They will not, and in all fairness for a few people who should they? It is but fair and right that we should adopt not only the provisions of the Reciprocity Act but also the sanctions. Let it be known that we are prepared for it. As my Honourable friend, Dr Deshmukh, has said, we have sent out 2 million people to fight for the liberties of somebody else and only for the cause of humanity, and surely, if not today, when all these soldiers return here and come back from Rome, Italy and from Berlin with success, they will feel ashamed of themselves—they will not care for a few acres of land that you may give them, if they know that in East Africa and Natal and such places they and their Kith and Kin are being treated worse than Hitler has treated the peoples of Europe. The South African Indian people have said openly, as my friend the Honourable Member for Commonwealth Relations has quoted, it is Hitlerism within the British Empire that is going on in Africa.

I hope I have made it clear that it is no use now asking them to remove those disabilities and wait for another year to pass. I represent the East African people and I have a mandate from them. The Honourable Member has got a telegram and we have also got telegrams—we are prepared for the sanctions. Let them dare use against us. Let us see how these 17,000 Europeans will be able to see that we will not be allowed to enter and stay in that country which has been our country for four hundred years while they have been there for hardly forty or fifty years. We want the Honourable Member to take that stand and to declare this clear position. I am sure for these 17,000 people the British people in the British Isles would not like this policy to be adopted. If the facts are placed before the British common people I am sure they themselves will call upon those in power there not to do this sort of thing and create bitterness and hostility in India against them. With regard to South Africa I will not take up much time—I will only say that there again you have got to consider seriously the promises that General Smuts has made from time to time. This is the fourth time that that gentleman, if you can call him a gentleman at all, has rescinded from his promises. Very recently we got a wire from him to our Viceroy—they are both soldiers. The word of a soldier to a soldier is considered to be much more than that of a diplomat to a diplomat. But here we hear from the Honourable Member's mouth that he has given this undertaking and he has broken this undertaking.

within four months. This is the class of people with whom we have to deal. Here are 2 lakhs of people, and if they are going to treat them badly, we shall certainly insist upon our Government to declare war against them, our soldiers are already in the field.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) The Honourable Member has one minute more.

Mr. Hoeseinbhoy A. Lalljee. Not only that, if it comes to that for the time being, we can get our people home, we have got today about 7 lakhs of European foreigners and 3 lakhs of European prisoners in India and we are made to look after them. We have never raised the question of shortage of food for them, we never raised the question of restriction, in spite of famine in Bengal, in spite of every difficulty, and in spite of their inhuman treatment to us. Now, Sir, we do not want our Indians to go to South Africa and East Africa any more and be disgraced there until we are strong enough to fight Europeans there. The Treasury Benchers have given the right lead and I am sure they will boldly play their part in this respect and will accept my amendment and the House also will be good enough to accept it.

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed Sir, the Honourable Mr Bhai Parmanand desires that his motion of adjournment may be taken up tomorrow in order to enable the present discussion to be finished today, we have no objection, and if you, Sir, will kindly give another half hour after five o'clock, I think we will be able to finish this debate and we shall be very grateful.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) Very well. I believe there is no objection on the part of any one if the adjournment motion be taken up tomorrow. I shall be prepared to sit till half past five today to dispose of this motion.

The Assembly then adjourned for Lunch till Half Past Two of the Clock.

The Assembly reassembled after Lunch at Half Past Two of the Clock, Mr Abdul Qayyum (One of the Panel of Chairmen) in the Chair.

Sir F E James (Madias European) Sir, the Honourable Member for the Department of Commonwealth Relations made a full statement this morning on the position of Indians in South Africa and in East Africa and, as I understood him, invited the House to offer him any advice or suggestions which they might wish to make. I shall not deal with the question of East Africa. I shall, therefore, confine my remarks to the position in South Africa and I may say, at the outset, that we fully support the powerful remonstrance which the Honourable Member has directed to Union Government of South Africa.

Sir, we welcomed the Pretoria Agreement, although we did not like the principle of statutory segregation. It appeared to us that this agreement which resulted in the withdrawal of the Pegging Act, laid down that there will hereafter be no statutory prohibition against investment, and that only occupational juxtaposition would be controlled and that by a Board of which half the members, excluding the Chairman, would be Indians. That seemed to us a fair agreement, a compromise which the Indian community there should be complimented upon in reaching. But the Residential Regulation Draft Ordinance as it has now emerged from the Select Committee of the Natal Legislature, to my mind, goes very much beyond the Pretoria Agreement in scope and in application and in the machinery which it proposes to set up. The House must also remember that it has been made quite clear in the debate in the Natal Legislature that this measure is only one part of a group of comprehensive measures covering the whole field of economic and social relationships between Indians and Europeans in Natal and indeed between other racial groups in that province.

Now, Sir, the Pretoria Agreement was the result of bilateral negotiations sponsored by the Prime Minister of the Union. The Residential Regulation Draft Ordinance and its attendant measures are the result of unilateral and

[Sir F. E. James]

provincial action. The House must know that the Indian community is not represented in the Natal Legislature, though I understand that a representation by one of the leaders of the community was heard at the bar of the House in the form of a petition. But apart from that, the Indian community was at no time consulted between the issue of the first draft of the ordinance embodying the Pretoria Agreement and the emergence of the Ordinance from the Select Committee with all the modifications and changes which I have mentioned. I understand, I think I am right in saying this, that at no stage was the Indian High Commissioner consulted about these changes.

Now, Sir, quite apart from the merits of these measures—and there may be more merit in them than appears at first sight—we feel that this is not the way in which an important and valuable minority should be treated on matters which vitally affect their own interests. Certainly it is not the way to lay the foundations of racial harmony throughout the Union. Indian reactions to this are, to our minds, fully justified.

I have observed from quotations in the papers that South African European opinion, particularly in Natal, seems to consider it quite improper for India to take any interest in the matter at all. This section claims that the Indians of Natal belong to the Union, and should therefore look to the Union for their protection, and that it is improper for them to look beyond the Union to the Government of India. Well, Sir, if that be the case, then the Indian community should be grimed the municipal and Parliamentary franchise that it once had but which was taken away from it. There will never be any racial harmony in the Union as long as important racial groups are excluded from every form of political representation and denied representation even on local and municipal bodies. These are rights which are fundamental to any minority or any community in any country, and as long as these are denied to Indians in any part of South Africa there will be trouble not only in the Union but also between India and South Africa. Without representation, to whom can the Indian community in South Africa look, if not to the mother country? If they are obliged to do this in the absence of representation in the country of their adoption, what can India do to help them except to remonstrate, if that fails, to boycott and, if that fails, to impose such sanctions as lie within their power. I know that many sections of the European population in South Africa are moved by fear of economic exploitation and ultimate domination by the Indian community and it would be unwise for any one trying to appreciate this problem to under-estimate that fear. I believe that fear is wholly groundless, but in any case it would be largely removed if the Indian community felt that they had a future in the Union and were not denied their elementary rights. No minority problem can ever be solved by sending the Minority to Coventry in the political sense and that is what the Union of South Africa has done to date as far as the Indian community is concerned.

Now, Sir, the various amendments before the House call for three measures. First of all the application of the Reciprocity Act, secondly the recall of the Indian High Commissioner and thirdly the imposition of economic sanctions. The first measure has been or is in process of being carried into effect. The recall of the High Commissioner is justified by the way in which he has been treated in these present measures. But I think that if the House decided to recommend his withdrawal, they should realise that that measure would at best be an expression of severe disapproval, which no doubt other parts of the Empire and other countries outside the Empire will understand. Speaking individually, I am uncertain as to the wisdom of this course. But if that course is demanded by Indian opinion, we will certainly not oppose it. The third measure is the imposition of economic sanctions, and here, I must say at once that the Party for which I speak, are not in favour of that measure being taken at present. We are not prepared to agree to any measure which might jeopardise any part of the war effort. The House will no doubt realise that India and South Africa are at present supply bases not only for India

and for Britain, but also for the United Nations generally, and we fear that the imposition of economic sanctions, which really means the opening of economic warfare as between these two great supply bases, would most definitely interfere in certain particulars with the war effort.

Sir Syed Raza Ali: For instance

Sir F. E. James: I will give one instance, and that is the importation of wattle bark from South Africa.

Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi (Dacca cum Mymensingh Muhammadan Rural) We can get it from other countries.

Sir F. E. James: Wattle bark is one of the most important items of import from the Union.

Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi. It is being replaced here and now.

Sir F. E. James: Before referring to this matter, I have taken the trouble to make some very careful enquiries and I understand the Supply Department conducted an enquiry into the possibility of using other materials for this essential purpose. The result of that enquiry is that no other materials were possible. In other words, no substitute can be used for this particular process. I made it my business to find confirmation of that during my recent visit to one of the great leather industry manufacturing centres in India.

Sir Syed Raza Ali: Is it not a fact that as a result of the enquiry by the Supply Department, it was ascertained that babool bark gives as good results as the wattle bark?

Sir F. E. James: I cannot enter into a technical discussion on this subject. I am advised by those who are in a position to know that India cannot at the moment do without wattle bark without very serious injury to war production in this country.

I am trying to explain to the House that while under normal circumstances, we should perhaps take a different view of the question of economic sanctions, we cannot now do other than oppose any measure which would interfere with the efficient prosecution of the war. We take the view that the early and successful termination of the war takes precedence over everything else, even over a quarrel of this nature which is so injurious to the best interests of the Commonwealth. Therefore I felt it my duty to make that perfectly clear.

Mr T. T. Krishnaswami (Tanjore cum Trichinopoly Non-Muhammadan Rural) Is the Honourable Member assured that his feelings are reciprocated by any section of the European public in South Africa?

Sir F. E. James: That question hardly arises here. I think my Honourable friend had better address his remarks to that particular section of the population in South Africa.

Mr T. T. Krishnaswami: Then my Honourable friend's concern appears extremely one-sided.

Sir F. E. James: I think the House will appreciate a plain statement from me and that is what I am endeavouring to make as to our particular attitude. If there had been any other consideration which had moved us, I would have mentioned it, but that being the main and sole consideration which we have in opposing this particular suggestion of an Honourable Member in this House who has moved his Amendment I hope I have made that very clear. Sir, it is indeed tragic for any one, who believes in and cares for what he believes to be the opportunities of freedom and of liberty which are still to be found in the British Commonwealth of Nations to have to contemplate the present relationships between the Union of South Africa and India. It is all the more distressing because the spokesmen of the Union Government have again and again reaffirmed the principles which were laid down in the Cape Town Agreement of 1927, which for some time was looked upon by South African Indians as their *Magna Charta*. I was reading only this morning a report of the debate on that agreement in which Field-Marshal Smuts took a prominent part and this is what he said:

"Whatever might be the formal position of the agreement today, the policy embodied in that agreement for giving Indian people in South Africa a square deal and every oppor-

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tantly for progress should never be abrogated. The Government were bound to carry out that policy and Indians should not be made to feel that they were outcasts. The country must be fair to the Indian people as regards land holding, housing schemes and all the amenities and rights to which civilised people were entitled."

One has only to appeal to that statement to realise how far the policy of the Union Government and of the Provincial administration of Natal has departed from that high ideal.

Sir Syed Raza Ali: Can my Honourable friend give the date of that debate?

Sir F. E. James: Soon after the completion of the Agreement in 1927. If any voice can reach South Africa from this Chamber, I suggest to the Field-Marshal, to the Provincial legislature, to the Parliament of the Union, that this House should appeal to that declaration and claim the fulfilment of the promise then made.

Sir Syed Raza Ali: Sir, we are considering the motion of my Honourable friend Mr Khare and the various amendments to it under very dark shadows of a great blow that has befallen our people, a blow the like of which I cannot readily remember since the year 1909 when the constitutional reforms associated with the names of Mr John Morley and Lord Minto were introduced in India. I welcome the timely, courageous and lucid statement made by the Honourable Member in charge, Mr Khare. We should never forget that under the shadow of this great blow it is our duty not to let our ranks be divided and it is our duty to take every section of this House as far as possible with us. It seems that possibly one of the objectives, in any case, of the Union Government is to provoke us into saying harsh and nasty things against them. It is our duty to examine carefully the speeches that have been made in the Union during the past ten days, one could not help coming to the conclusion that not only have they injured our people, the domiciled Indian community in South Africa, but they are moving on adding insult to injury. In the course of my speech I will read out a few brief extracts to show us to what the mentality of the White settlers in South Africa is. But let me make it quite clear that since the people of this country have no active voice in the councils of Government, we should guard against using harsh language. One must remember that harsh language as a rule, is used by those who are powerless, who cannot do anything, who have no strength and who have no self-reliance. Unfortunately we and our countrymen suffer from all these things, but I put it to this House, if I may, whether it would serve any useful purpose to use unnecessarily harsh language without taking our courage in both hands and putting into practice the measures which are reasonable and consistent with the assertion of self-respect against the Union nationals.

The history of our relations with South Africa is very sad. I do not want to go into that history, but one thing, with your permission I would certainly say and it is this. It seems that no pact, no agreement, no contract come to between India and South Africa can ever be binding on the people of South Africa.

Mr Hoosenbhooy A. Lalljee: Let us make an appeal to them so that they may carry out their order. That is what we are advised.

Sir Syed Raza Ali: Yes. I know the significance of the word "appeal." I know what it is. As a matter of fact, I do not want to lecture some of my Honourable friends here, but that is a function which I have always loathed. But may I put it to my Honourable friend Mr Hoosenbhooy Lalljee what else can you do except taking such little action as may be open to you under the provisions of the Reciprocity Act and supplemented by appealing to the people of South Africa? What else is left to you? There has been some talk of war, army, invasions and all that sort of thing but does it really amount to anything? Does it really mean anything? Let us, if I may say so, eschew using those terms because they are not likely to add to the respect in which we might be held by the people of South Africa. It is the weak who always

brag A strong man, a powerful man or a nation never indulges in this sort of thing What I was going to say is this that we were faced with a very similar situation in the year 1924 when General Smuts was the Prime Minister. He was defeated in the general election of that year and with him was shelved the Class Areas Bill that his Government had introduced in that year General Hertzog succeeded him as Prime Minister in 1925 and a similar Bill was introduced by his Government Then, a deputation was sent out in the time of Lord Reading by that Viceroy and the result was the protracted negotiations between this deputation and the representatives of the Government of South Africa The only question that we had to consider then was this and it is most important to concentrate our attention on that

The people of the Union Government say that all this large Indian population is a population which we cannot assimilate, which will never make South Africa its own home, which will never conform to our civilisation, our standard of living and our ways and manners Therefore, this is a foreign element What are we to do with them except to drive them out which we propose to do through the instrumentality of the Class Areas Bill That question was very carefully gone into and the result was this The suggestion made by the representative of the Government of India and the Delegation that was sent in 1927 to that country was this, "If this is your fear, why can't you absorb the small Indian population, in any case not a very large population that is there The Government of India and the people of India have absolutely no objection to the domiciled Indian community conforming to the European standard of living and adopting European methods and manners You assimilate this population and let this population for all practical purpose become an integral part of the population of South Africa"

Maulana Zafar Ali Khan (East Central Punjab Muhammadan) What about their colour?

Sir Syed Raza Ali. Colour is a problem when even Europe has not been able to solve, much less can we aspire to do the same

And on that basis a compromise was arrived at in the Cape Town agreement, and to that agreement everybody was a party including General Hertzog and his followers And so was Field-Marshal Smuts who was the Leader of the Opposition at that time After that many songs were sung in honour of this Cape Town agreement and a debate followed General Smuts not to be outdone by any speaker on the Government Benches made a speech to which reference was made by my Honourable friend Sir F E James My point is that that was, so far as it appeared, the final settlement of the Indian question in South Africa and yet it seems that in South Africa no sanctity attaches to agreements and treaties or contracts made between two Governments If that is the mentality of the people and Government there, all I can say is this that it is really almost useless to try to obtain the goodwill of the people of that country since it is impossible to obtain that goodwill in any circumstances

Now, Sir, in enacting the Pegging Act the Union Government gave the go-by to the basic principles underlying the Cape Town agreement, and attention was drawn to that Now they have gone much further and by the Natal Council adopting the Residential Property Regulation Ordinance they have made that law applicable to all the townships and boroughs in Natal where mostly Indians reside Here I will put my European friends on their guard, because this Ordinance is the result of the anti-Indian agitation of not the African settlers or the Dutch or Boer settlers but of the Britishers, who form 95 per cent of the population of Natal They should be on their guard because they are in a way on their trial This unfortunate Ordinance, this repulsive, objectionable and offensive Ordinance which has given the greatest offence to India and one of the objects of which seems to be to humiliate Indians not only in South Africa but also in this country, is the result of the endeavours of the Britishers, pure Britishers, who have settled in Natal Let the European Group vote any way they like but let me tell them again this There is a

feeling in South Africa,—and my Honourable friend Dr Khare may take note of this,—that the Government of India and the Europeans who are doing business in India are in their heart of hearts not in support of the Indian demand with reference to the amelioration of the grievances of Indians in South Africa, but that they are forced to lend their outward support to it because they do not want to show to the public that even on such an important question where the Europeans in India and the Government of India should be with the people of India, vital differences of opinion obtain between us and the Government of India and the Europeans settled in this country. That is really their feeling, and I think it is the duty of the Government of India and of my European friends, if they will listen to my words, to make it quite clear that they are not offering mere lip sympathy to the Indian people and the domiciled Indian community in South Africa in their hardships and trials but that they are as much convinced about the justice of the Indian case as we Indians ourselves are. The moral issue involved is one which can be decided in only one way. Of course, in the last war one of the slogans, according to Germans was that might is right and according to the Allies it was the other way, that is, right is might. That same question is being fought out again on the battle-fields of Europe and Asia and it was fought out on the battle-fields of Africa. But whatever may be the position of the other parts of the British Commonwealth there is not the least doubt that, so far as South Africa is concerned, might was right before, might is right today, and I am afraid if General Smuts, for whose attainments and abilities I have the greatest respect, were allowed to have his own way, might will be right in South Africa so long as he is at the helm of affairs there. I am sorry to say that but the facts are there. As I pointed out, the issue is a moral one, I put it on moral grounds.

Mr. Chairman (Mr. Abdul Qayyum) The Honourable Member has two minutes more.

Sir Syed Raza Ali I was told I would be allowed 30 minutes.

Mawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan (Rohilkund and Kumaon Divisions, Muhammadan Rural) Sir, he is the chief spokesman on behalf of the Muslim League Party and according to the understanding arrived at he may be given half an hour.

Mr. Chairman (Mr. Abdul Qayyum) If the Deputy Leader of the Muslim League Party gives his time to him I have no objection.

Sir Syed Raza Ali. People are so excited and feelings are running so high that my friend Mr. Kazi in giving evidence on behalf of the Natal Indian Congress at the bar of the House straightaway charged the Government of South Africa with adopting the methods and mentality of Hitler. That is very harsh and hard language to use, but knowing the country and its conditions as I do I dare not disagree with Mr. Kazi's description. The economic, social and political condition of Indians is known to this House and I will not go into all that. But the position is that the Cape Town agreement has been given the go-by, legislation the like of which has never been passed by any territory comprised in the British Commonwealth of Nations against another territory has been adopted by South Africa against people who have no vote, who have no free right of trading, who are subjected to numberless disabilities. That being the case, is it not the duty of all the countries forming the British Commonwealth of Nations to take up India's cause, because I am quite clear that if this matter is allowed to go any further and if no compromise is found between these two countries, this might mean the death-knell of the British Commonwealth of Nations. Look at the implications and consequences. It is impossible for you to maintain the British Commonwealth of Nations if one part of it enacts legislation against the people of another part. This would, in all likelihood, lead to a declaration of war. So those who hold the idea of British Commonwealth of Nations dear should never lose sight of this aspect of the question.

My Honourable friend, Sir Frederick James, just pointed out why he was opposed to the last item of the Resolution. He made it quite clear that if economic sanctions were enforced, they would lead to interference with war effort. May I ask my Honourable friend, Sir Frederick James, does he expect us Indians to be more loyal than the King? Does he expect us to have greater regard for the solidarity of the British Commonwealth of Nations than these English settlers in Natal have had for it? Does he really contend that while Natal should be allowed to do anything it likes against the Indian settlers who Indians should never lose sight of the fact that the war is going on? Yet if the war is going on, that war is likely to affect South Africa also. Whether the Commonwealth loses or wins—and I am very happy that all the signs are that we are going to win,—whatever might be the result of war, that would affect both the countries equally. So far as the Commonwealth business is concerned, both India and South Africa can sink or swim together.

May I say a word to my Honourable friend, Dr Khare? I am glad that the Government of India have at long last decided to apply the Reciprocity Act to South African nationals. All I can say is that the action is too late by just 11 to 12 months. What the Government of India ought to have done in November 1943, they have done on the 4th or 5th of November 1944. The real point, as I have said, is that the South African people believe that the Government of India, after all, will not support the people of India in seeking the removal of Indian grievances in South Africa wholeheartedly. That is their belief. Therefore, it is unfortunate that the action which the Government of India is going to take is belated.

There is another thing. My Honourable friend, Dr Khare, is not ready even with his rules which incorporate the sanctions that can be enforced against the South African nationals. I do not know how long those rules will take to be published, but that is his real weakness. His attention was drawn there and again both in this House and in the meetings of the Immigration Committee. Today there is some hope that these rules will be published 'in the near future', though I do not know what that really means.

It is rather difficult to embark upon a detailed examination of the various parts of the amendments, but one thing I would like to say is this. I do not think any section of this House should agree with the Government in the view that it is not necessary to recall the High Commissioner. I will, in a few words, expose the position taken up by the Government. You are enforcing economic sanctions. One of the economic sanctions would be that cattle and some other things should not be allowed to come to India and certain other things should not be exported from India to South Africa. That is really an economic warfare and that is a tremendous business. The Government of India are going to swallow the camel but they want to strain at the gnat, namely, we will take economic sanctions all right but we are not prepared to recall the High Commissioner from the Union. That is a sad mistake.

Mr N. M. Joshi (Nominated Non Official) They will send him back.

Sir Syed Raza Ali: That makes it much worse. What I mean really is this. If you are in right earnest, if you want to enforce the economic sanctions, really, honestly and straightforwardly, that very moment India's relations with South Africa will become strained. It simply cannot be helped. Then having endeavoured to inflict a larger injury on South Africa, you are considering the question of not injuring South Africa's susceptibilities too much by recalling the High Commissioner. Sir, this is an absurd position. This is a position which no man with a grain of common sense will be prepared to take.

Sir F. E. James: May I ask if the Government have said that they have decided to impose economic sanctions?

Sir Syed Raza Ali: It is an open question. I am saying that if it is decided it becomes necessary to recall the High Commissioner.

Mr. Chairman (Mr Abdul Qayyum): The Honourable Member has one minute more.

Sir Syed Raza Ali: Either don't enforce economic sanctions, or if you do you must go all out for it. Otherwise you will be making yourself a laughing-stock of people in that country. Sir, there is a saying in English "Willing to sound but afraid to strike." That will be applicable to us if we try to enforce sanctions without making up our mind to recall the High Commissioner from South Africa.

Mr. Chairman (Mr. Abdul Quayum): Honourable Member's time is up.

Sir Syed Raza Ali: I am finishing, Sir. The position is very sad but it is a question of India's honour. I know that in spite of doing all that we have been discussing we might fail yet, but it is a question of India's honour, and it is the duty of every Indian to do what he can to vindicate India's honour even if such vindication results in some injuries being inflicted on our people in South Africa. Sir, I support.

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: Mr. Chairman, it was never my intention to intervene in this debate but a very admirable speech by Sir Frederick James, which contained three sentences, necessitate my getting up in my seat. One sentence which I think will be read with great concern by the people of the country was when he said "India should appeal to the Union Government and the Provincial Government of Natal." Sir, he does not realise perhaps that this momentous issue is an issue of sentiment, honour, and self-respect,—I further go and say—even of principle because four-fifths of His Majesty's subjects are Indians. After all that has happened in South Africa to which he made reference himself in his speech, he asks us to appeal to these Governments. I submit to the House that it is a most extraordinary request. I wish Sir Frederick James would ask His Majesty's Government and his own people in this country to appeal to their countrymen in South Africa to be reasonable, to be sensible and not ask us to appeal.

Sir F. E. James: May I rise to a point of explanation? I think my Honourable friend, the Leader of the House, misunderstood the purport of my remarks. I certainly did not recommend that this House should appeal either to the Union Government or to His Majesty's Government. What I did say was that if any words of mine from this House could reach those quarters, may those quarters be reminded of the solemn pledges they had given in the past which were now being disregarded. I submit, Sir, that is quite different.

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: Most certainly it is different. But I heard the word 'appeal' (*Several Honourable Members*: "Yes, he said 'appeal'"). Anyhow I would make a request to Sir Frederick James to call meetings of the European community in different centres in India and then appeal to his countrymen in South Africa to behave. Sir, Sir Frederick James said that war efforts will suffer if certain steps were taken by the Government of India. I do not know whether those steps will be taken or not. That is a matter entirely for the Honourable Member in charge of the Commonwealth Relations Department. On behalf of the Government of India he has made the position clear. But I do not understand the meaning of throwing on us this sentence "War efforts will suffer." Of course they will suffer but who is responsible for this? (*Several Honourable Members*: "The Union Government.") Are we responsible? Sir Frederick James himself has given us a good certificate. If South Africa is responsible for this then I suggest to the United Nations—twenty-five nations in the world apart from India—to go to South Africa and tell South Africa that they have to be reasonable.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: Smash them. Segregate them.

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: Sir Frederick James said that India cannot do without wattle bark. Let me tell him that India can. Indian can do without it for the simple reason that nine-tenths of its population do without boots and shoes and if the remaining one-tenth have to walk bare-footed without shoes or boots, they will be prepared to do it.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: Let the South Africans bark!

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: I suggest to Sir Frederick James that he must appeal to His Majesty's Government to get wattle bark from whatever source they may and bring it into this country, if war efforts suffer. The position is that if the matter is not settled and if the Government of India decide to take economic sanctions which they haven't yet decided surely this wattle bark will not stand in the way. We will go to His Majesty's Government. We will go to the United Nations, every one of them, to secure wattle bark from any place that they can find so that the war efforts of the United Nations may not suffer.

Mr Govind V. Deshmukh: Unless we know in what spirit this legislation is taken by the South Africans we will not be on the right lines so far as this debate is concerned. In the words of Mr Mitchell, the Chairman of the Select Committee "the revised draft ordinance would go hand in hand with proper town planning and controlled development, and—mark these words,—in conformity with South African tradition that separation of races is very necessary and to that end town planning can be associated with the Residential Property Regulation Ordinance administratively." The main idea behind any legislation that is enacted in South Africa is that the Indians will be segregated from the whites and it shall be mostly a white man's country. In other words, there is one race which wants to suppress the other race. In a few words one race wishes to persecute the other race. I do not know when Hitler will be defeated and finished but the spirit of Hitlerism is gaining ground. Although Hitler is at present in Germany his spirit is abroad and I have not the least doubt that so far as this colony is concerned it is gathering momentum. If we remember this, then we can understand that it would be useless to appeal to His Majesty's Government. The Government of India have from time to time spoken about their representations through the High Commissioner to the Union Government of South Africa but they have not been heeded to. As a matter of fact, my friend Sir Raza Ali was not wrong when he said that there is a belief that this Government is not in earnest. Public opinion has been very strong but the Government has been slow to move. I dare say that today the words that have fallen from the Leader of the House will dispel that belief. If we see the history of this Legislature for the last four years we will find questions and adjournment motions relating to this subject and they have always said look here, there is only one way for us, the representation and what can we do? When this Government said we have made representations and we do not possess any sanctions, this House gave them the Reciprocity Act and yet they were most loath to enforce that Act. In connection with that adjournments have had to be brought up frequently. The last was in February 1944 brought by me to which reference has been made by the Honourable Member.

Well, Sir, at that time they put faith in Field-Marshal Smuts. They said that he was a strong man, that our Viceroy, himself a Field-Marshal, was dealing with another Field-Marshal in South Africa and that a soldier's word will always be respected. At that time Sir Raza Ali reminded us of a prophecy and his warning certainly proved prophetic today. He said "Do not put your faith in General Smuts" and he quoted passages after passages how Field-Marshal Smuts had gone back on the words which he had pledged himself to. Still the Government of India gave Field-Marshal Smuts a chance and if he had followed the debates in this Assembly he would very well have thought that at least to disprove the words of Sir Syed Raza Ali, who had himself been in South Africa, he should rise to the occasion and keep to his pledged words.

I do not wish to go into the details of this Legislation, this Ordinance. The Honourable Member mentioned the Pretoria Agreement with which, he said, we were all satisfied. As a matter of fact I was to a certain extent thinking that the Government of South Africa was changing its attitude. I thought it was taking Indians into their confidence and whatever legislation or ordinance will be passed by them, Indians will be associated with it or consulted as to the lines on which they should proceed. But we have found out

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to our great disappointment that we were really wrong in thinking so. Sur, in view of the admissions of the Honourable Member, it is not necessary for me to analyse the several clauses of this ordinance. I may perhaps refer to one instance in which the South African Government have tried to go back on their promise, and have made a somersault. There was a Reconstruction Committee which made a recommendation that there cannot be economic watertight compartments, i.e., one race cannot be segregated from the other and the two races will have to get on together. The Commission stated

"Your Commission believes that the population of Natal cannot be divided into economic watertight compartments based on racial lines. That is to say if economic prosperity is to be established for the whole community, then in its view, the laws of economics must be allowed as free play between the different racial groups as they are between individuals in each group."

In contradiction to this the Residential Property Regulation Draft Ordinance proposes to restrict the free play of economics by controlling acquisition of residential property and land by Indians. This is the latest instance which shows how these people can go back on their own pledged words. In other words we were hoodwinked and we were fools till now to believe them. Let it be said to the credit of the public that they have not acted foolishly, but it was the Government of India who have always acted foolishly till their hands were forced very recently. It was of course heartening and encouraging to hear just now the sentiments expressed by the Leader of the House. I am very pleased at the attitude which he has taken and I am more happy to see that he has gone a step further. The Honourable Member says, "What are we to do. There is a war on and we must stand by the United Nations. Does it mean that we alone of all the United Nations must bear the brunt of the war in spite of the indignities heaped upon us?" May I ask does it mean that we must put up with everything and anything so that European civilisation may be saved and Indian civilisation and Indians themselves may go to the dogs? Does it mean that all other communities and races which enjoy the European civilisation should alone prosper and others should be annihilated. Now it seems to me that our prospects are very gloomy, if we do not start on the war path now. Let us think of this. If we help them to win the war and peace comes, who would sit round the table in the Peace Conference? Field-Marshal Smuts will be there. He has always been attending round table conferences and peace conferences and has words count, because he has received the best certificates from British statesmen like Mr Churchill. His voice will be most potent. I am afraid there will be no peace after this peace conference. It will no more be a problem of Indians *versus* South Africans. It will be a question of Coloured races *versus* White races, and what better could Hitler or Japan desire than this situation. It would prove a very good weapon for them. Hitler would say, "See how you are treating the coloured races. What face have you to say that I shall not persecute the Jews. In what way are you better than me when there is so much persecution of one race by another within your own dominions." What kind of peace can there be with such conflicting interests between the coloured and white races. If this question is not amicably and satisfactorily settled (let this go to His Majesty's ears) there is very little chance not only of winning the peace soon but every prospect of prolonging the war. And peace that comes will only be a superficial peace which is likely to erupt any moment.

We were told that our Viceroy was a soldier and Field-Marshal Smuts was another soldier. We were asked to believe in the words of a soldier. We thought that one soldier would stand by his word and if he did not the other soldier would see to it that his words are respected. What was it that was said by Field-Marshal Smuts in his telegram? He said, "This was really a fair arrangement and we hope hereafter matters will be finally settled." He said in his telegram

"The Natal Provincial Council is going to provide a joint board of five consisting of two

function it would be to create a machinery for a board to control occupation by licensing of dwellings in certain areas and application of Pegging Act in Durban will be withdrawn by Proclamation on passing of this ordinance."

Here he has gone back on a settlement which was according to him fair and what trust can we put in a soldier's word now?

Nawabzada Muhammad Isaquat Ali Khan: Not a soldier's word but a Field-Marshal's

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: It was asked by my Honourable friend what shall we do now and he said that he had put this Reciprocity Act into force. Very good, though you have done it at a very late stage. I myself had moved an adjournment motion about a year before that the rules should be ready and the Act should be put in force. But we were asked to put our trust in Field-Marshal Smuts. But we have now realised we have been betrayed, the confidence which you placed in your negotiations with Field-Marshal Smuts was a misplaced one. Now even it is not too late to mend matters. But you are halting in enforcing the Reciprocity Act. Now that you have struck, strike hard, go to the full length. I cannot understand this halting manner. Either declare war or do not declare war. But this halting position I cannot understand. If you wish to engage in a fight, then unless you throw your full force, whatever little action you take will recoil on you. I do not know what the Government of India feels like, but if you ask any person who has been engaging in fights of any kind, he will tell you to go full length—otherwise do not strike at all.

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: But you are not one like that!

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: I am going to do that, I have done like that throughout my life—go full steam ahead. All my life whenever I have engaged in a fight I have gone full length, whether in my school days or later. As a matter of strategy, therefore, I say, go with your full strength and strike at your opponents. I say if any of these Members of this Government were to appear before a selection board of the G. H. Q. every one of them would be turned down; they would not be considered fit.

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: You will be turned down also!

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: No. Psychologists and psychiatrists will tell you that you are unfit to lead this country and to protect the interests of this country. You possess a defeatist mentality. You vacate those seats and we will take them over and then show you what we can do. Therefore, I am telling you, do not be so helpless. When you said you were helpless and could not do anything we gave you the Reciprocity Act which you were most unwilling to wield.

Sardar Sant Singh (West Punjab S. Kh): That is past history.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: What I say now is, enforce this Reciprocity Act. You merely say something about acquisition of property and disposing of property. How does it affect them? You must apply this in every day matters—in the case of travel for instance. These people may not desire to acquire any property here and have no property here, but they have to travel every day. Why do you not put these restrictions the same way as they do? Enforce all South Africans to put on badges saying they are South Africans so that it may be known to all of us who they are. Force them to wear such badges and tell they cannot use our railways. Prohibit them from travelling on our railways. So far tram cars are concerned, I hope my friends will urge that the municipal authorities are concerned with preventing South Africans from travelling on their tram cars, that is a matter of everyday occurrence, I hope my words will reach them. You will realise that it will have a psychological effect.

Mr. Chairman (Mr. Abdul Qayyum): The Honourable Member has one minute more.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: They will be made to know what India means, and they will be treated in like fashion. As regards this High Commissioner, from the summary of his speech which my friend gave in the last debate in March, it would appear that the High Commissioner has done nothing except

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transferring letters which he receives and sending a summary of something or other this side. The people in South Africa for whom you wish to speak and whose interests you wish to protect have said "We do not want him". They know their own economic interests better. They say "Apply the economic sanctions". It is not you who are going to suffer, they are ready and they say "enforce the economic sanctions". With what face can you say "No"? They are the people who want it and they are going to live in that country. Therefore, whether it is by way of remonstrance as Sir James has said or whether it is by way of enforcing some sanctions and expressing our greatest displeasure and saving our High Commissioner from the most humiliating position in which he is placed.

Mr. Chairman (Mr Abdul Qayyum) The Honourable Member's time is up.

Mr. Govind V Deshmukh One minute, Sir. They must be saying "What is the use of this High Commissioner here? What can he do? He has been representing

Mr. Chairman (Mr Abdul Qayyum) The Honourable Member must conclude his speech.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh. I will finish in five minutes.

Mr. Chairman (Mr Abdul Qayyum) I am afraid the time is up. There is an arrangement with Parties to that effect.

Mr H A Sathar K. Essak Salt: As the chief spokesman of his Party, he gets half an hour, Sir.

Mr. Chairman (Mr Abdul Qayyum) If he gets half an hour, then I think the debate will not conclude.

Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi: Mr. Chairman, I will not take more than five minutes. After the speech which we have had from my Honourable friend, Sir Sultan Ahmed, we are fully satisfied with the attitude which the Government intends to take. He has told us very plainly what we can expect from the Government. As a business man, I would like to mean business. Time is money. Do it now. The only weapon Government has got in hand to teach these fellows a lesson is the economic sanction. Impose the economic sanction at once without delay, and then recall the High Commissioner, and note how the trick works. Unless Government does that, mere taking of time, talking in this House and explaining to us that Government is very much annoyed and aggrieved and want to do whatever it can, will not have any effect. Government must proceed in a business like way. Delay will be suicidal. Apply economic sanctions. Recall the High Commissioner. That is the only thing that Government should do, and nothing will prevent Government from getting what it wants. What is the use of retaliation? There may be 204 South Africans in India. What is the property they hold in India? Nothing at all. Whereas we have got 2 million Indians there in South Africa.

The Honourable Dr N. B. Khare: Two lakhs, not two millions.

Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi: Anyway 2 lakhs as against 204. This is the only effective weapon. If Government delays, then, take it from me that it will spell disaster. Now is the time. Do it now. Sir, I support the amendment.

Sardar Sant Singh: Sir, I will not take the time of the House for long. I congratulate the Honourable Member in charge of the Commonwealth Relations and my congratulations go more heartily to the Leader of the House for the Churchillian speech he has made in the House for the first time. The tone of that speech is clear enough to indicate that the Government of India is quite serious. I will not address much words to the Government of India, but I am afraid there are two other parties to address. One is South Africa. So far as South Africa is concerned, the tragic word has been spoken and war has been declared upon South Africans by the Government of India. Today's *Hindustan Times* must have been read by the Honourable Member—where the *Natal Mercury* has chosen to hold out serious threats both to the residents

in South Africa and to the Government of India as well. The paper points out that "the only course left open" to the two lakhs of people—Indians who are resident there—is to go down on their knees and ask for the mercy of the South African Government. The *Natal Mercury* has said that if the Reciprocity Act is to be applied, there will be reprisals. I personally wish that there be reprisals. We will welcome such reprisals. It is only then that we shall be able to hit back more effectively against them. This will also enable us to hit at the Imperialistic system to the great advantage to India.

Now, the third party whom I wish to address is His Majesty's Government. We now know that the Government of India is serious in this matter. We know also that they are in earnest. But after all is said and done, we cannot forget that the Government of India is a subordinate Government, getting their cue from His Majesty's Government. If Mr. Churchill is true to his word and is sincere about what he wrote about the part played by Indians in the development of South Africa—the well known passage from his book has been quoted several times on the floor of this House—we are sure that Mr. Churchill's Government will sanction all the measures which the Government of India will demand from them. I am sure that the Churchill Government would not compel the Government of India to lose in this war which has been declared from Delhi against South Africa.

I will say one word more and finish. Let not any impression go abroad that we retraced the steps which we have taken. The Leader of the House has rightly said that if the war effort is affected thereby, the responsibility is that of the 45 United Nations and not the responsibility of the Government of India. If the South African Government have declared war and the war effort suffers, the responsibility will be of those who have declared the war and it is for the United Nations to bring South Africa to its senses. With these words, I will finish my speech.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Sir, the speeches of the Honourable Member for Commonwealth Relations and the Leader of the House are a pleasant surprise and at the same time an encouraging sign. They show that a grave situation has been created by Field Marshal Smuts' action, by going back on his pledged word in the Pretoria Agreement. Unfortunately, Sir, this is not the first time that the South African Government has gone back upon its word. They promised in the Cape Town Agreement that they would put forth greater efforts to raise the standard of life of the Indian citizens in South Africa. The South African Europeans complain of the lower standard of life of the Indian people in that country but it is the South African Government which is responsible for keeping the Indians on a lower standard of life. They did not give them much education. They spent ten times more on European education than on the education of the Indians. They did not give Indians the full benefit of the labour laws and the social security legislation which they have. Therefore it is not for the South African Europeans to complain of the lower standard of life of the Indian and of the unfair economic competition. I therefore feel that the struggle that our countrymen are making in South Africa is fully justified and we from this Legislature should give them every support that we can. I am glad that the Government of India has been led into some action on this occasion. They have delayed action too long but when they act it is for us to recognise that at least they have done the right thing. In this connection I feel that some Members wrongly take the view that the application of the Reciprocity Act is retaliation. I do not think it is retaliation. It is placing both the South Africans in India and the Indians in South Africa on the same terms. There is therefore no retaliation in the application of the Reciprocity Act. This is reciprocity and not retaliation.

My Honourable friend Sir F. E. James said that the European Group does not approve of the economic sanctions on the ground that they may come in the way of the war effort. The Honourable the Leader of the House has pointed out that we Indians need not assume the responsibility and the onus of the war effort, while others act for anything that the

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hamper the war effort. I therefore feel that the Europeans in this country will join the Indians in helping the struggle which the Indians are making in South Africa.

There is the question of the recall of the High Commissioner. Personally I feel that if we apply the Reciprocity Act and if we also apply the economic sanctions the question of the recall of the High Commissioner becomes a nominal one. He will have to come back to India, whether they send him back or we ask him to come back. I feel that the Government of India should act boldly.

I was somewhat sorry to hear from the Honourable the Commonwealth Relations Member that he feels that his powers are limited. Let him not feel that. It is wrong for him to feel that. The Government of India does not consist of the subordinate officials. They are the Government of India and if they unitedly exercise their influence with the British Government, they need not feel that their powers are limited. If they once feel that their powers are limited, then they will not be able to help our countrymen either in India or in South Africa. I therefore suggest to him very humbly—let him not feel that his powers are limited. He can depend upon the support of this House and the people of this country, if he does what the people want. I feel that the Government of India should act boldly and take courage in both hands and then I have no doubt that this matter will be settled satisfactorily. I support the amendment proposed by my Honourable friend Mr Hoosenbhoy Lalljee.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee (Calcutta Suburban Non-Muhammadan Urban) Sir, the history of the relations between the White settlers in South Africa and the Indian settlers is one of the most dismal chapters in world history. Indians were invited, persuaded and cajoled to emigrate to South Africa and they helped in a very large measure to build up the prosperity of that country. But as soon as this object was achieved, injuries and insults were heaped on Indians one after another. Indians made appeals, submitted representations and pledges were given and solemn agreements were arrived at, but no sooner were these pledges given and solemn agreements made, they were thrown to the winds, and the attitude of the White settlers in South Africa grew from bad to worse as one day succeeded another.

Now, what is the attitude of the present Government? Their attitude has assumed the worst form. This attitude would not have been taken up by South Africa if the British Government had raised its little finger on behalf of the sentiments of 400 millions of the Indian people. But the British Government did not do anything to help us. Now, the question is: What shall we do? We are left to our own resources, and I am not sorry for that. We are struggling for freedom and unless we are able to exercise our own rights and to utilise our own resources to the fullest extent, we shall never be fit to gain freedom.

Sir, what, then, are we to do? What are the different methods which are open to us at the present moment? My Honourable friend Sir Frederick James, who is a very pleasant-mannered gentleman, in a half-hearted speech suggested that we should remonstrate and make appeals. But he made it clear that that was not his own view, but the view of the European Group. I am very sorry for the European Group. They are supposed to be the lovers of freedom, but in this case what do we find? We find that they are a party to humiliations being heaped upon India. They have not ever lifted their little fingers to help us, although they enjoy all the benefits, the rights and privileges of Indians.

Mr. Hoosenbhoy A. Lalljee: Much more.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: Yes, much more, I stand corrected.

Now, what are the ways open to us to deal with the present question? Last year the Reciprocity Act was passed and we have been told by the Honourable Member for Commonwealth Relations—I do not know whether

that title is an appropriate one, because we are not yet in the Commonwealth and still we have a Commonwealth Relations Member—that the Reciprocity Act had been put into force and a Notification had been published in the Gazette. This was done only two days ago. Better late than never. But what more can we do? We can enforce economic sanctions as rigidly as possible. There are some who doubt the efficacy of these economic sanctions, but it appears to me that the question of gain or loss does not arise when the honour and prestige of a nation is involved. Therefore, let us not hesitate to apply economic sanctions with the fullest rigour. It has also been suggested that the application of economic sanctions would impede war-effort, but that is not, as has been pointed out by the Honourable the Leader of the House, our responsibility. That is the responsibility of the British Government and their Allies. We are not intending to hamper the war-effort, but if through their action or inaction war-effort is impeded, we are not to blame.

Lastly, the question is whether we should recall the High Commissioner or not. It appears to me to be placing ourselves in a most humiliating position to retain our representative in South Africa when all sorts of indignities and humiliations are being heaped upon our countrymen in that place. Therefore, we should not have the least hesitation in recalling the High Commissioner. And as my Honourable friend Sir Syed Raza Ali points out, the High Commissioner has not been able to render any substantial assistance to the Indian community in South Africa. Why should we, therefore, hesitate to recall the High Commissioner? If we recall the High Commissioner, we will vindicate the honour and prestige of this country. We shall tell all people that we do not want our Representative to be there to be humiliated. We will raise the prestige and honour of our country and we shall also be able to raise our heads high before the world. For these reasons I support the amendment which has been moved and I hope that quick and immediate action will be taken in all these respects.

Nawabzada Muhammad Laqaat Ali Khan. Mr Chairman, this is not the first time that the question of degradation of Indians in South Africa has come up for discussion before this Honourable House. This is not the first time that it has been brought home to us, Indians, that a slave country has no place in this world anywhere. I feel that the time for speeches is over. All these speeches in the past have done some good by bringing home to the Government of India the true sentiments and the real feelings of the peoples of India, as has been evident from the two speeches that have been made by the two Honourable Members of the Government. I have not heard any speech made by anyone who has tried to whittle down the effect or minimise the consequences of the new ordinance that has been passed in South Africa. Therefore, it is evident that with regard to the injurious effects of that ordinance there are no two opinions in this House. The view that the European Group has taken with regard to this motion is that while they deplore what has happened in South Africa, they feel that the application of economic sanctions or the withdrawal of the High Commissioner will not be in the interests of the British Empire.

[At this stage, Mr President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim resumed the Chair)]

I am purposely not using the words "war effort" but I am using the words "British Empire." Sir, this is not the first time that whenever we, on this side of the House, have raised any question which is of vital importance to the peoples of this country, we have been confronted with this war and the consequences which any action might have on its prosecution. I say, Mr President, damn your war efforts, and damn the British Commonwealth of Nations, if my position in that Commonwealth is to be that of hewer of wood and drawer of water. I am interested in your Commonwealth only to the extent that I enjoy the same freedom, the same privileges and the same rights as every free man in this

[Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan]

world is entitled to enjoy. But if my helping you to maintain that Commonwealth means degradation to my people, abroad, then I say, the sooner this Commonwealth of British Nations vanishes the better it would be not only for India but for the peace of the world. Sir, what is the use of deceiving the people by expressions like 'Commonwealth' and so on? To me it seems that the meaning which is attached to the word 'Commonwealth' by the White races is that the wealth of the world is their common property. That is the only meaning that they wish to put on the word 'Commonwealth'. My Honourable friends of the European Group feel that you might not be able to put sufficient pressure by the methods which have been adopted. I say, yes. We might not. But if a country is impotent, if a country is not free, then does it mean that it should take lying down all the insults that may be heaped on its nation, in any part of the world? I am not free to declare war on South Africa, but I am certainly free to do as much damage to South Africa as I possibly can.

Sir, my Honourable friend the Member in charge of the Commonwealth Relations—I think he should ask the name of his Department to be changed—has told us that the Government of India have applied the Reciprocity Act. Sir, it is good as far as it goes. But without the application of economic sanctions, it is no use your taking this action. I entirely agree with my Honourable friend Mr. Deshmukh that unless and until you are in real earnest about this matter, you should not have taken this action, because if your intention is only to show to the people of this country that the Government of India have done something, then I think, by this action of yours, you have done incalculable harm to our nationals in South Africa. It will only irritate the whites without affecting them in any way. The action which is required to be taken should be such as would affect South Africa, materially and financially. I go further and say, Mr. President, that the United Nations have made India their base, main base for operations in the East. The Government of India should tell His Majesty's Government that it is a fit case for their intervention and if His Majesty's Government are not able to put pressure on the Government of South Africa, then this Government, if it has any responsibility to the people in this land, should tell them that India will not be able to give any further help in the prosecution of this war. These are the methods by which you can bring it home to those people as to what India really feels, not by the method of applying half-hearted measure, known as the Reciprocity Act. I submit that even if, after the application of Reciprocity Act, there was no demand from this side of the House for the recall of the High Commissioner in South Africa, the Government of India in their own interest and in the interest of that man who is there as your High Commissioner should recall him. When a country is hurt, when a country is insulted, this is the first action that any free country takes, namely, to recall its representative from that particular country. I submit, Sir, that under the circumstances it is not only futile but it is degrading to keep the representative of the Government of India in South Africa. Sir, I would go further and say that if the Government are really in earnest, the Honourable Member in charge of the Department should come forward asking for the amendment of this Act, the Reciprocity Act. Section 5 says

"Any direction made by the Central Government under section 3 imposing disabilities in respect of entry into India or travel or residence in British India upon persons domiciled in a British possession shall not, until the expiry of six months after the termination of the present hostilities, apply to any person domiciled in that British possession, who is a member of the armed forces."

I say, Sir, I do not want any South African to be in this country whether he is in the armed forces or otherwise. A man who belongs to a nation which day in and day out is treating my people inhumanly has no right to be in my army or in my country, and therefore I suggest that the Honourable Member should in view of what has happened come forward asking for the amendment of this Act. We do not want anybody here to protect our country.

How can they protect the country of a people whose nationals they are treating in this disgraceful manner? Sir, I again appeal to the Government, you have taken some action, do not any longer be half-hearted about it. Go ahead full speed and you will have the support of every man, woman and child in this country.

Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai (Bombay Northern Division Non-Muhammadian Rural) Mr President, Sir, in rising to support the amendments that have been moved as regards the consideration of the question now before the House, I am deeply gratified to find at the terms in which that Resolution has been accepted, at all events, by the non-official Members of this House, barring the European Group, and supported not in half-hearted, but full-throated language even by the Leader of the House. The question now before the House is indeed a very old issue, even before the times, Sir, when you were the Leader of the Opposition in this House. Ever since 1870, I find it recorded by a Commission, then appointed for the purpose of investigation into the conditions of Indians in Natal, that the majority of the white colonics are opposed to the presence of free Indians as rival and competitor in agriculture or commercial purposes. That, Sir, is the beginning of this disgraceful story. That was the infection that spread to the Transvaal in the course of some three or four years thereafter. And thenceforward it has happened in the history of this country that those who were domiciled in foreign lands the Government of this country has found itself entirely impotent to protect. Indeed reference has been made to the new denomination of the Member in charge of this particular measure. At one time I was familiar with the words "Member for Indians Overseas." I thought that was good enough, neutral enough and respectable enough. But to call him the Commonwealth Relations Member is an innovation against which I wish to emphatically protest. For it is perfectly true, as I once pointed out in this House, even more than what my Honourable friend the Deputy Leader of the Muslim League Party said today, that of all the countries in this world as I look round the only common wealth, the wealth that is common property of all those who wish to exploit is poor India. Every other country has a special wealth of its own. You cannot enter it, you cannot leave it, you cannot trade in it, much less can you ever be a citizen of it. That is the condition of the legislation of all the countries of this world except this poor country in the hands of this present Government after a period of 150 years, and after the experience which they have had with reference to the Indians as they are being treated overseas.

Sir, so far as the Indians overseas are concerned, the problem of South Africa has now raised a much larger issue than the mere issue of the Pegging Act under suspension or the Pretoria Agreement or the manner in which it has now been broken. The issue now raised is, what is going to be the position of Asiatics as they are described in the Pegging Act, and particularly the Indians, in the future of the world? And that is the way in which I want this issue to be considered by the Government of India, unless they are prepared to tell the House, which I hope they are not prepared to do, that in future whatever happens in this war, whoever wins or whoever loses,—and I trust the Britisher hopes to win, the position so far as Indians are concerned is going to remain exactly the same *vis-a-vis* Britain and *vis-a-vis* the rest of their colonies, let alone the foreigners. If that is the position which we are going to get, all the eloquent words that are here uttered with reference to post-war reconstruction and post-war arrangements had better not be uttered in this House at all, if indeed all that post-war reconstruction means is that they are going to reconstruct India in order that Britain may still remain in the same dominant position by exploiting this land. Therefore it is that I can well understand the position that my Honourable friend Sir F. E. James has taken up. He has had the temerity to tell this House, "Look here, there are two things which you have got to consider. One thing, is, what will you do for wattle-bark?" I suppose my Honourable friend

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knows that India tanned hides and not wattle bark, long before that word was known to this land. But he could not do any better. I myself looked down the list of exports and imports of India and I venture to say, that South Africa will be less able to do without India than India without South Africa. So that let him understand that this kind of half-hearted and feeble effort to remind Indians of the position in which they are is not going to last any long, that if they belong to this land, if they wish to be settlers in this land and to be called neighbours of this land, then attitude will have to alter here and now and immediately, that it is not merely a question of economics any longer, it is a real question of freedom and equality in the brotherhood of mankind. And if we are not going to occupy that position, then,—to quote the words of my honourable friend Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan,—‘what does it matter to us what happens in this war? It is all very well to frighten us, as used to be done at one time by saying, ‘Oh, what will happen to you if we lose?’ But what will happen to you if you lose? Have you considered that problem and have you considered the position today, of not allying yourselves with Indians in every question that concerns the Indians in the complete and fullest manner? That is the appeal I make again after several years to my friends of the European Group. But the question is not merely addressed to them, it is addressed to His Majesty’s Government. At present on account of the large issue that has arisen,—and in a way out of evil cometh good,—it is just as well that General Smuts, the show-boy of Mr Churchill throughout the period of this war, has been quoted and he has had the temerity to tell us what can be done and what cannot be done. Sir F. E. James failed to quote the rest of the speech which General Smuts made, and I will quote the last words there

“White South Africa” (*W h i t e*) “is big and strong and honest enough to do justice to all races and all colours and we shall do so.”—(*Mark these words*)—“and we shall do so taking into consideration our known attitude of separatism in housing, work circles and associations.”

No greater insult could have been offered to the Indians who have made at all events Natal what it is. Figures are known to this House. There are 195,000 demoralised Indians in Natal alone today as against 205,000 Europeans. Therefore it is that—though there are only 20 thousand in the next colony, eleven in the third and nine in the Orange Free State,—we know exactly what the issue is. The issue is not one which is merely confined to Natal in its effect and in its consequences, and hence it is that it is up to us to consider the question of where we stand today. When we, for instance, said in this House some years ago that the war was declared against our will and against our consent we were told “Oh, that is all very well, but we have done so to protect you.” If this is what is meant by protection, if what is meant by protection is that South Africans are to be encouraged, that all countries where Indians reside are to be encouraged, that they are to be pampered, that they are to be flattered and fattened in order that we may bleed and fleece for them,—they are very much mistaken. The time has now come when we must recognise and realise what our position is going to be after the war. It is not a question of saying, “Oh, yes, on some future distant day we shall declare you a dominion.” The time has now come to recognise the issue as a living issue here and now. And hence it is that from many other places we have demanded that in so far as the freedom of India is concerned, it is a matter of declaring here and now. India is being made the basis of operations and the question is not merely whether or not the Indians in South Africa will be allowed to buy or occupy land in particular areas. That is merely a test of the question. You are aware of what has happened in the history of that unfortunate South African legislation, apart from what happened in the year 1870 and the eighties and the nineties. The question came up first, thank God, when that country gave us the first real measure of our fight for freedom. It was there for the first time that Mahatma Gandhi was able to face the real

issue of self-respect of subject races. It is he who fought against General Smuts himself, and it is General Smuts who in 1914 entered into what is known as the Gandhi-Smuts Agreement which is the charter on which the Indians, subject as they are to restrictions, still base their rights today. The spark that came to fire that day is going now to devastate other lands. If the freedom of this country is not going to be achieved here and now, what is this war being fought for? Britain says she must be free, Germany shall not offend them or encroach upon them. That is perfectly true, but you cannot have abstract ideas, one freedom for yourselves and another freedom for the rest of the world.

This is a world war in its true sense of the term. Apart from the fact that it endures the world, it has a greater significance. If China is to be one of the powers that is going to play a vital part in safeguarding the future security and peace of the world, do you expect that the rest of the world, if it remains subjugated, is going to end the war, notwithstanding the fact that this war may be won? Do you really believe in your heart of hearts that China is really to sell the rest of the world? If you think so, I am afraid you are very much mistaken, you are also mistaken if you think that the Asiatics are any longer going to allow themselves to remain as subject races of the world. If you are fighting the war merely in the sense that you are going to raise your dignity higher and higher in the eyes of the world, by all means do so, but don't tell us it is our war. It will be only our war if you, here and now, tell us that you and I are equals, that you are as free as we are. It is the only thing which is important, namely, that the European people of the world should proclaim freedom for everybody and for this land. This is the real issue which has acquired much importance. It is not a matter of recalling the High Commissioner, that is a small measure. I can understand what exists in your mind, but I cannot understand the mind of any Member who says we must consider how we can recall the Commissioner. Does he remember that if the freedom of a single national of any of the European countries was concerned, their own Ambassador would be recalled next morning? Does he remember that the breaking of diplomatic relations is only a step to the declaration of war with that country from which you recall your Ambassador? It is true and I fully appreciate it that we are not in a position to declare war—perhaps that is the reason why they are talking in the language in which they do—but what does it matter whether it is so or otherwise? So far as we are concerned, we cannot be a party to any diplomatic relations with a country that has no respect for my nationals. What does he usually do? I have no soft corner for any particular individual. He is generally unable to say anything to the Colonial Office or to General Smuts, so he comes and bullies us 'why don't you accept this or why don't you accept that?' That is the only use we can make of that Agent. He gets correspondence from the Government of India and he goes from one white house, dark house or black house to another in which other people are housed. Therefore, in so far as the three measures at our disposal are concerned, Sir, it is our necessary duty that we shall apply them.

And to take them, therefore, in order, in so far as the Reciprocity Act is concerned, it should be made no excuse. The 5th Section, to which my Honourable friend referred, should be made no excuse to tolerate any individual with a greater freedom in my land than my own countryman is enjoying there. After all what is our contribution? Two million men have been raised in this country. They are good enough to fight so far as the security of this land is concerned. No doubt it is true that they have imported some others to fight along with us in order that it may not be said that we were alone able to defend ourselves. That also I am aware of, but it is perfectly true also that many excuses can be made in the name of war effort. Nobody is more anxious than myself that we should make a common effort to fight for the cause of freedom, but standing, as I do, here after a little more than five years after the declaration of war, we demand that it should be clearly understood that we shall fight for our freedom as much as we have fought for the

[Mr Bhulabhai J Desai]

freedom of others. Therefore I say that if they continue to think in the terms they do in South Africa—that we are an inferior race, that they cannot tolerate a free Indian, equal in agriculture or commerce—if that language which was used in the year 1870 is going still to be the governing sentiment of the Europeans as a race or Europeans as a body, then I may tell you that there is going to be no peace, notwithstanding that this particular war may be won. I think it ought to be recognized everywhere else and should be recognised here and now that there cannot be any peace so long as the world consists of two portions—one part standing as a victor to dictate peace and another part standing as their subject races.

Look at the map of the world. Africa—there is no colour of European country which is not represented there and they hope to retain that as a part of their dominions, whether it is Belgium or whether it is Holland or whether it is France or whether it is Germany—I hope they will come to terms with them in some manner or other—and of course Britain. If that is also going to be the history of occupation of the rest of Asia well, you may be quite sure that whatever may be agitating the world, the world is not going to stand still. The world will not and cannot tolerate any inequality between man and man in what is now called a highly civilized condition. In other words, India and the rest of it, Burma, which you are going to conquer—that we are going to conquer, it I may be permitted to say so, with a little modesty or immodesty—and Indo China and all the rest of it, is going still to be the hunting ground of Europeans—French in one place, English in the other, and a little further South the Dutch in Java and Sumatra,—so that as I look round the world I do not see any peace in it, not unless and until they rise to the stature, real, genuine and honest, namely, that we stand for democracy, that we fight for democracy, that we wish to see every human being free in his own land. 'Peace in the world and goodwill to all' is not enough. That you recite every Sunday, but that is not enough. It has to be translated into action, it has to be translated into life, it has to be translated into sacrifice every day of the week. For indeed I have read during the last few months a great deal of controversy going on.

They say in the country to which my friends belong and who are at present dominant in this land 'Remember that the standard life is to be maintained, remember that that standard of life will depend on trade, remember that we have to increase our trade even in excess of what it was before the war. We remember all that. But I began to ask myself where do I come in. That is all very well, but where do I come in. And the question so far as this House is concerned is—I am very glad that they have almost directly raised this issue—why should they tell us if war effort suffers, therefore please don't displease Africa. Have you had the courage to tell Africa that war effort suffers? That is the attitude of every man who is either a part of that Government or a constituent part in the constitutional sense or a part of the Government in the racial sense. You come to the same answer. War effort is good, we wish to win, but if liberty is not given to Africa and Asia then you may be quite certain that you will not have peace in this world. You will only have peace and lasting peace not by antagonizing atoms of two or three powers—I suppose in order to please the Asiatics they say China is going to be one of those security powers, it is all right to say that but it is wrong to plan like that—but by liberating other nations of the world. Other races of the world will have a great deal to say before real peace comes. Therefore, I say that in so far as the two amendments before the House are concerned, we wholeheartedly support them. We demand that with regard to the half-hearted sanction so far as the Reciprocity Act is concerned there must be an immediate amendment to section 2, we demand that the Commissioner should be immediately recalled. There is no time to lose in giving effect to this. While this House is yet considering it, the Natal Council has had the decency or indecency or courage or whatever mood you may like to call it. I do not know, to pass that Ordinance so that it will be taken as an

accomplished fact. Let it be remembered that there are many accomplished facts to which Indians have submitted but the time has gone by when Indians will not submit to what I call accomplished facts if the peace of the world is to be imperilled thereby. Therefore we also ask that in so far as economic sanctions are concerned, they should be applied forthwith. As for any further measures that are concerned, it will be later on for us to consider. It will be for us to consider to what extent we shall participate in this war, which to a great extent is a war for the perpetuation of our domination. Therefore it was that unless it was made our war we shall not be made a party to it. And the issue remains to-day still the same whether we are parties to the continuation of our domination or whether we are parties to our own freedom. On that depends the issue of the House.

Sir, I support the amendments.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahman) I understood from Mr. Churman who was occupying the Chair before I came in, that it has been arranged that after Mr. Bhulabhai Desai, the Leader of the Opposition, Dr. Khare is to reply to the debate.

Mr. M. Ghiasuddin (Punjab Landholders) There is plenty of time yet, if you will allow one or two more speakers.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahman) Dr. Khare.

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare I am grateful for the sense of appreciation to which general expression has been given in this House. Sir, I do not want to flatter myself or to put myself on my back. I have done what I could within my limited power and resources and I also realise it is precious little. I have made no secret of it. I have compared it to rubber apple without milk. So there can be no two opinions on this matter and I may further want to add that so far as sentiments for India's domination, democracy, opinion of the world, racial discrimination and exploitation and sovereign equality and what not have been expressed, I am in entire agreement with my Indian who calls himself the son of Mother India. I do not make a vain boast. I have said so in my speech. I wish, Sir, that India could have been in the position of declaring war against South Africa here and now. As my friend the Honourable Colleague from Bombay asked, why not war? But he is non-violent. I am not. Yet it comes from him. It is surprising.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh You should know better.

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare Sir, I wish India was free to declare war. Had it been so I assure the House that I would have lost no time in taking all the arms and armaments available and invading that country and perhaps being in the forefront. Unfortunately, it is not so. We are all aware that we are a politically subject people. You cannot blink at this fact. (*An Honourable member* "Why not resign?") For this subjection every Indian, including the Members of the Opposition, and all our ancestors are responsible. They cannot single me out for that blame and if they want me to resign, I ask them: What has brought you back here? After all you have come here. You know your limitations. You know your Legislature is not a Sovereign Legislature, yet you have come back here to do service within those limitations. I have come here to a similar Government also to do service.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh We are only a Dunkirk!

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare Reference has been made about the withdrawal of the High Commissioner. I have already told the House that we have not yet reached any decision one way or the other. The question is open and it can appear to anybody that that should be the step. There is nothing new in that. It occurred to me also. But, Sir, I take it that as the Honourable the Leader of the Opposition has said, that immediately we withdraw the High Commissioner we declare war, but we are not in a position to do that.

Mr. Hoesainbhoy A. Laljee What will happen?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare Therefore, it is not worth while to take any hasty decision. After all we have to see how things develop and be circumspect about it. These withdrawal and re-entry measures have been indulged in-

[Dr N B Khare]

by the Opposition *ad nauseam*. They may please the Opposition Members but I do not think this policy has achieved anything at all. Therefore, I would not like to be the hunching-stock of the world as they have been. So before any withdrawal takes place, I will have to think twice. That is my attitude.

So far as my friend, Mr. Hooseimbhoy Laljee is concerned, he has only made one point that the reasons for the issue of the Ordinance in East Africa are not true. There is no scarcity of any food, etc. In my opening speech I said. We have conveyed to them that the Government of India do not hold that there are any valid reasons for the Ordinance. So he has made no point at all.

So far as my friend, Sir Frederick James is concerned, I do not want to say anything because Sir Frederick and Sir Sultan have cancelled each other.

I take very strong objection to some sentiments expressed by my friend Sir Raza Ali. He has expressed doubt about the sincerity of the Government of India in this matter. He has said it is only lip sympathy. I hope I am correct. If it is so, I repudiate the whole thing with all the emphasis at my command and with the contempt it deserves.

Sir Syed Raza Ali: Why did you not enforce sanctions last year? Why were you waiting for eleven months?

The Honourable Dr N B Khare: I am coming to that. Do not be impatient.

Mr Abdul Qayyum (North-West Frontier Province General) Let us hear Adolphus!

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani (Trhut Division Muhammadan) Don't spoil the effect of your speech!

The Honourable Dr N B Khare: My Honourable friend Sardar Sant Singh has pointed out that there are likely to be reprisals against Indians as well as against the Government of India, although I do not know how they can take any steps against Government of India. If they are going to invade India we will welcome it. Therefore, I still maintain that we should watch and see what reprisals they will take upon our nationals. Perhaps they may themselves find it in essence to declare our High Commissioner *persona non-grata*. If that happens there will be no difficulty to recall him.

Sir Syed Raza Ali: Waiting for him to be kicked out.

The Honourable Dr N B Khare: There is another inaccuracy which has crept into the speech of my Honourable friend from Nagpur, Mr. Deshmukh, to which I am bound to refer. When he referred to the application of the Reciprocity Act how it was brought into being, etc., I think he gave us wrong history. He said that the Government of India were unwilling even to accept that measure which we passed in this House sometime in 1943.

Mr Govind V. Deshmukh: That is quite correct.

The Honourable Dr N B Khare: The fact of the matter is that the measure of my Honourable friend which was passed by this House was incapable of being brought into force. When I took charge in May I found that that was the position after I had got it examined and I lost no time in bringing before this House the amended measure in July which this House passed. They will thus see how far the charge of unwillingness and delay can be sustained. I am afraid my Honourable friend is not on strong ground in view of the sequence of history in relation to this measure.

Then Sir, the matter of war effort was mentioned. The Honourable the Leader of the House has gone far ahead of the Honourable the Member for Commonwealth Relations. As far as I remember I simply said, if you think of going out of the Commonwealth we may perhaps fall from the frying pan into the fire. It is a maxim known to all of us. Its implications are well known. I do not think any further amplification is necessary on that point.

My friend Mr. N. M. Joshi has charged us with delaying action among several other things. I do not know that I am guilty of that charge. I have taken great pains to explain in detail what transpired between us and South Africa in

the course of several months. I have given dates. The House will consider whether in the course of negotiations it is at all proper to bring this Reciprocity Act into effect. Would it have in any way helped the negotiations? Before the negotiations actually failed, as they ultimately did, was it at all wise to apply any act? If you consider the matter dispassionately I am sure you will come to the same conclusion.

Another point made by my Honorable friend, Mr. Joshi, is the distinction between reciprocity and retaliation. Sir, this is nothing but hair splitting. Supposing I give a slap in the face of my Honorable friend and he gives one in return to me, what is it? Is it reciprocity or retaliation? I maintain it is both. He has attempted to swell our head about the power which we possess. Sir, we know what power we possess. We cannot easily be befuddled with fanciful ideas about our having full power. Therefore if we proceed on the basis that we have adopted I think it is wisdom and not folly.

Sir, some people have expressed doubts about our attitude even today. In my opening speech I have said emphatically that the Government of India will not shrink from any overt act which is necessary and possible in this behalf. Is it necessary to give any further assurance?

Much has been made about the name of my department, from "Indians Overseas" to "Commonwealth Relations". This is not genuine to the issue under discussion. It is merely a change of name and I have never made any fuss about it. I am not ashamed to declare here and now that the change has no political significance at all. It is merely a paper. After all what is there in a name?

Sir, the amendments which have been moved so far are twenty in number. The purport of them all is that the Reciprocity Act should be applied, that the High Commissioner should be recalled and that economic sanctions should be enforced. About the Reciprocity Act you have got it already applied by a Gazette Extraordinary. About the recall of the High Commissioner I have expressed my own views on it absolutely without any hesitation and about the economic sanctions also I told the House that this matter also is under the serious consideration of the Government. And I hope it won't take very long to decide on them one way or the other. I have also, I remember, in my opening speech, requested the House to give their advice as to what should be done in this matter. Therefore, Sir, I want to tell the House that I do not think I should like to fetter the hands of the House in my decision which they want to take on the three matters. It is entirely for the House to give its advice. I do not think, Sir, I shall want to waste my waste time of the House and I thank the House again for all the good opinions which they have expressed from all quarters except one.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdul Rahim) I shall first put Dr. G. V. Deshmukh's amendment. The question is

"That the following be added at the end of the motion and having considered the matter, this House is of opinion that the Government of India should forthwith exercise the powers under the Reciprocity Acts (viz., Act IX of 1943 as amended by Act XXII of 1945) against the Nationals of South Africa's Union not being of Indian origin and should immediately recall the High Commissioner for India in South Africa."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdul Rahim) The next amendment is the one moved by Mr. Hooseembhoy A. Lalljee.

"That the following be added at the end of the motion

'and because of the continuous racial discrimination policy against Indians adopted by the Union of South Africa and by the East African Governments of Kenya, Uganda and Tanganyika, this House is of opinion that the Government of India should forthwith enforce Economic Sanctions against those countries and exercise the powers under the Reciprocity Acts (viz., Act IX of 1943 as amended by Act XXII of 1945) against the Nationals of those countries'."

[Mr President]

To this, there is an amendment moved by Mr Govind V Deshmukh

"That in the amendment proposed by Mr Hooseunbhoy A Lalljee, after the word 'Nationals' the following words be inserted
'not being of Indian origin' "

I shall put the last amendment first. The question is

"That in the amendment proposed by Mr Hooseunbhoy A. Lalljee, after the word 'Nationals' the following words be inserted
'not being of Indian origin' "

The motion was adopted

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) I shall now put Mr Hooseunbhoy A Lalljee's amendment as amended The question is

"That the following be added at the end of the motion
'and because of the continuous racial discrimination policy against Indians adopted by the Union of South Africa and by the East African Governments of Kenya, Uganda and Tanganyika, this House is of opinion that the Government of India should forthwith enforce Economic Sanctions against those countries and exercise the powers under the Reciprocity Acts (viz, Act IX of 1943 as amended by Act XXII of 1943) against the Nationals, not being of Indian origin, of those countries.'"

The motion was adopted

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) I shall now put the original motion as amended by the amendments passed by the House

The question is

"That the position of Indians in South Africa and East Africa be taken into consideration, and having considered the matter, this House is of opinion that the Government of India should forthwith exercise the Powers under the Reciprocity Acts (viz, Act IX of 1943 as amended by Act XXII of 1943) against the Nationals of South Africa's Union not being of Indian origin and should immediately recall the High Commissioner for India in South Africa and because of the continuous racial discrimination policy against Indians adopted by the Union of South Africa and by the East African Governments of Kenya, Uganda and Tanganyika, this House is of opinion that the Government of India should forthwith enforce Economic Sanctions against those countries and exercise the powers under the Reciprocity Acts (viz, Act IX of 1943 as amended by Act XXII of 1943), against the Nationals, not being of Indian origin, of those countries "

The motion was adopted

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday, 7 November, 1944

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 7th November, 1944

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber of the Council House at Eleven of the Clock, Mr President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) in the Chair

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(a) ORAL ANSWERS

GRANTS TO UNIVERSITIES UNDER CONTROL OF GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

122. *Dr Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: (a) Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands lay a statement on the table of the House giving the grants both recurring and non recurring, to the three Universities under the direct control of the Government of India (Delhi, Benares and Aligarh) for the years 1939-40, 1940-41, 1941-42, 1942-43, 1943-44 and 1944-45?

(b) Will the Honourable Member be pleased to mention the grants given to the associated colleges of the Delhi University during the same period in addition to the grants given to the University?

(c) Did the Benares and Aligarh Universities approach the Government of India for special recurring and non-recurring grants during the period?

Mr. J. D. Tyson (a) and (b) A statement giving the information required by the Honourable Member is laid on the table of the House

(c) Yes

Statement

	1939 40			1940 41		1941 42	
	R	N R		R	N R	R	N R
1 Aligarh Muslim University	3 lakhs			3 lakhs		3 lakhs	
2 Benares Hindu University	3 lakhs			3 lakhs		3 lakhs	
3 Delhi University	1 lakh			1 25 lakhs	1 5 lakhs	1 5 lakhs	1 lakh
4 Delhi Colleges	98,655	‡1 lakh		97,672	‡50,000	98,521	‡50,000

	1942 43		1943 44		1944 45	
	R	N R	R	N R	Budget R	estimates N R
1 Aligarh Muslim University	3 lakhs		‡3 15 lakhs		‡3 15 lakhs	
2 Benares Hindu University	3 lakhs		‡3 15 lakhs		‡3 15 lakhs	
3 Delhi University	1 75 lakhs	1 lakh	‡2,48,693	3 lakhs	‡2 99 lakhs	50,000
4 Delhi Colleges	97,887	‡50,000	2,38,398		‡2 641 lakhs	‡2 5 lakhs

‡Including grant for dearness allowance

‡Grants to Hindu College

‡This amount will be given to the colleges only if they move to the University site. It is, however, unlikely that any of the colleges will be able to move to the University site. No grant will therefore be made to any of the colleges.

‡Grant to A. A. College

R—Recurring
N R—Non recurring

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: What is the reply to part (c)?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: The answer is "Yes"

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: What reply did the Government of India give?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: The Honourable Member did not ask that

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: I ask now. May I know whether the Government of India made any grant to the Universities?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: The answer to that is covered by the statement I have laid on the table

ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL BURDEN ON ALIGARH UNIVERSITY DUE TO INTERMEDIATE CLASSES.

123. *Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: (a) Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state if it is not a fact that the Government of India gave a grant of three lakhs of rupees to the Aligarh University at a time when Intermediate Classes did not form part of University education?

(b) Is it not a fact that in subsequent years the Government of India by its own enactment abolished the Intermediate College in the Aligarh University and transferred the teaching of Intermediate Classes to the University?

(c) Did the Government of India realise that by such an enactment the responsibility of the maintenance of the Intermediate College was transferred from the Provincial Government to the Central Government?

(d) Is it not a fact that Intermediate Classes are now maintained out of the grant of three lakhs of rupees which the Government of India gave about thirteen years ago?

(e) Are the Government of India aware of the fact that the burden of maintaining the Intermediate Classes has fallen on the University which was previously under the Provincial Government which means an expense of about one lakh of rupees per annum on the University?

Mr J. D. Tyson: (a) The annual recurring grant to the Aligarh Muslim University was increased from Rs 1.25 lakhs to Rs 3 lakhs with effect from 1930-31.

(b) Legislation to amend the Aligarh Muslim University Act with a view to abolishing the Intermediate College and transferring the teaching of Intermediate Classes to the University was undertaken by Government in 1931 at the express request of the University.

(c), (d) and (e) It is understood that the grant made by the Government of the United Provinces to the Intermediate College, Aligarh Muslim University, was transferred by that Government to the University after the passing of the Aligarh Muslim University (Amendment) Act, 1931. The Honourable Member was personally apprised of this position in 1931.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Is it not a fact that the grant was sanctioned a year before the passing of the Act by which they abolished the Intermediate College?

Mr J. D. Tyson: The Intermediate College was abolished after the grant of 8 lakhs.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: At the time the grant was given, Intermediate classes did not exist and this grant was for the Post Intermediate classes?

Mr J. D. Tyson: I do not admit that all. The Aligarh University was supporting the Intermediate College before that College was abolished. I suppose it is supporting the Intermediate classes since that College was abolished.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Prior to the abolition, the Intermediate College was supported by the Provincial Government and after the enactment by the Government of India of the Act of 1931 the responsibility was transferred entirely from the Provincial Government to the Central Government and we have been maintaining it out of the grant of three lakhs. Is it or is it not a fact?

Mr J. D. Tyson: I understand not.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Is it not a fact that the Provincial Government was supporting the Intermediate College prior to its abolition by enactment of the Government of India?

Mr J. D. Tyson: They gave a small grant which, I understand, was transferred to the University when the Intermediate classes were transferred to the University.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: This really means that the grant which was previously given by the Provincial Government is now transferred to the University, which means out of the grant of three lakhs which the Government is giving us.

Mr J. D. Tyson: The Honourable Member has misunderstood me. The Government of the United Provinces made a grant to the Intermediate College

and I understand that when the Intermediate College was closed and the classes were transferred to the University, the Government of the United Provinces transferred that grant to the University

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad. That is not a fact. The Intermediate classes have been expanding and the number has now trebled and the Government of the United Provinces does not give the grant equivalent to half the expenditure. They have clearly said that it is not their responsibility. Is it or is it not a fact?

Mr J. D. Tyson. I have no information on that point.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad. At the time the Government of India Act was passed, Sir Fazl-i-Hussain the then Education Member gave me clearly to understand that any financial loss of revenue to the University will be compensated by the Government of India. It is not on record. I wanted to expose it on the floor of the House but I was asked not to speak and the Bill got through in five minutes. Is it or is it not a fact?

Mr J. D. Tyson. This is the subject matter of a later question.

ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL BURDEN ON ALIGARH UNIVERSITY DUE TO INTERMEDIATE CLASSES

124. *Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: (a) Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state if it is not a fact that by the enactment mentioned in the previous question private candidates cannot appear in the Intermediate Examination as they could do prior to the enactment?

(b) Are the Government aware that the loss of income to the University on account of stopping private candidates from appearing at the Intermediate Examination amounts to Rs 40,000 per annum?

(c) Are the Government of India aware that the Honourable the Education Member then in charge promised to compensate the losses of the University? Was any compensation ever given? If not, why not?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) The Aligarh Muslim University (Amendment) Act, 1931, did not affect the power of the University to admit private candidates to its examinations. The University of its own accord had restricted admission of private candidates to the Intermediate Examination prior to the enactment of the 1931 amending act.

(b) No.

(c) Government are not aware of any such promise. The second and third parts of the question do not arise.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad. Prior to 1931, the Intermediate Examination did not form part of the University. After passing the Act, the Intermediate Examination was transferred from its independent position to the University and under section 5(3)(a) of the Act, private candidates are prohibited. Is it or is it not a fact?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: The University by its own action had precluded itself from admitting private candidates to the Intermediate examination before the Act of 1931 was passed and the Act of 1931 did not alter that position.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: My friend does not know that the Government of India sent Mr. Richey and asked us to abolish the system of private candidates altogether. We did that. Afterwards, is it not a fact that the Government of India went to the Governor and asked us to abolish the system of private candidates, both High School and Intermediate?

Mr. President: The Honourable Member cannot have a debate on a question like this. It cannot be done by means of question and answer.

WAR EFFORTS OF ALIGARH UNIVERSITY

125. *Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: (a) Is the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands aware of the war efforts of the Aligarh University?

(b) Did the Government of India in any of its reports mention the war efforts of the Aligarh University?

(c) Did the Government of India make any contribution to meet the expenditure incurred during the war by the University in connection with war efforts?

(d) Does the Education Department realise that all the war work in the University has got educative value and, as such, it comes directly within the purview of the Education Department?

Mr. J. D. Tyson. (a) Yes

(b) The Department of Education, Health and Lands have not published any report in which war efforts of the Aligarh University could be mentioned

(c) Yes. The Honourable Member, as the Vice Chancellor of the University, is well aware that assistance is being given by the Departments of Labour and War to the University in connection with their war efforts

(d) War work done in a University may have its educative value but as such work is of a specific character and is undertaken primarily with a view to promote war efforts, it comes within the purview of the departments directly concerned in the matter

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad. Am I to understand that the Government of India in the Education Department is not aware that India is at war? These efforts have an educative value, if they have no educative value the University will have nothing to do with them. We are not Military Staff College.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim). The Honourable Member is arguing.

Prof. N. G. Ranga. What is the nature of the war effort that the Aligarh University is carrying on and which the other Universities are not carrying on?

Mr. J. D. Tyson. I have not had notice of that question.

Sardar Sant Singh. How has the Honourable Member made a reply with regard to the war effort if he did not know the nature of the war effort?

Mr. J. D. Tyson. I know the nature of the war effort which is being made by the Aligarh University, but my Honourable friend Prof. Ranga has asked me about the war efforts that are being made by the other Universities. Of that I have had no notice.

Mr. T. S. Avnashilingam Chettiar. May I ask what is the special war effort that is made by the Aligarh University?

Mr. J. D. Tyson. To that I can reply. There is the formation of an Indian Air Training Corps, the establishment of an Aeronautical Workshop and work for war technicians in respect of which a hostel has been erected. Those, I think, are the principal lines of war work.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad. We have also got a pre-cadet school which is one of the most important institution and also an institute of military science.

Mr. J. D. Tyson. I am prepared to take it from the Honourable Member.

POLICY RE SELECTION OF CONTROL GOODS SHOPS

126. ***Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad.** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies be pleased to state the policy of the Government in the selection of shops for the sale of various goods under control? Is it not a fact that the policy of the Government is to select those persons who controlled the trade before the beginning of Government control?

(b) Have the Government only selected the individuals to run the controlled shops, or have they also allocated the quota?

(c) Have they introduced the system of control shops in the districts of Surat and Ahmednagar and, if so, how are the persons selected to sell the controlled articles? What quota has been given to each community? Has the quota been given in proportion to the volume of the trade each community had before the war?

The Honourable Sir M. Asirul Huque. (a) Government's policy in the selection of shops for the sale of controlled goods is to interfere as little as possible with normal trade channels, and to make use as far as possible of those persons

who were in the trade over a period of time before the beginning of Government control

(b) Government makes use of a quota system for the distribution of controlled woollen goods of Indian manufacture, cotton textiles and scheduled wireless sets

(c) Government has some recognised dealers in Indian woollen goods and scheduled wireless sets in Ahmedabad, but not in Surat. There are selected dealers in brass utensils manufactured out of brass released by Government in Ahmedabad and Surat. Selection of dealers is made from amongst those who are established and considered to be eligible, and was not made on community basis. The conditions of eligibility vary according to the articles controlled, but are based on normal trade practices.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: May I ask why was Surat excluded because the complaint came from there that you do not apply the normal rules there because they would benefit a certain class of people?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I would rather like to have notice of that question, but as far as I am aware they were distributed on the basis of the applications made. Several times it has come to my notice that places have been excluded because dealers did not apply in time. But I should like to have notice of the question.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I know whether the same policy applies to the distribution of consumer goods which are now imported under the lend-lease?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I should like to have notice of that question.

Mr. Lalchand Navarai: Is it not a fact that these shops or most of them are being given only to those who are the favourites of the Government and who have done something for them?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I categorically deny this statement and challenge the Honourable Member to prove one single case in which this has been done.

Mr. Lalchand Navarai: May I draw the attention of the Honourable Member to the case of Sind where shops are being given to such persons as are the favourites of Government?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: Sind may be a special favourite of my Honourable friend, but we have distributed in Sind, as elsewhere, on uniform principles.

Mr. Lalchand Navarai: Will the Honourable Member make inquiries to find out what is the real case, because even the District Magistrate admitted to me by saying that they have been given to some favourites of Government who had done something for the Government?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: If the Honourable Member mentions to me some concrete cases, I shall be glad to make inquiries.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What steps Government have taken or propose to take in order to prevent any arbitrary use of the power of licensing these various shops and selecting some shop keepers with reference to orders?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I do not know if any such rules can be made which can be said to be entirely fool-proof, but all I can say is that for the last 18 months I have been keeping a careful watch on the representations which have been made to me on the score of distribution. The difficulty, however, comes in because of the fact that we have not got enough commodities. We have to give them to some and therefore we generally follow the practice of inviting applications and get names from the Government and from the local people in some cases. Generally, we hold a Conference of the trade interests and after that the lists are published. Even thereafter, if there is any such case which has for some reason or other been excluded, we try to incorporate it as far as possible.

Prof N G. Ranga. Will Government be pleased to consider the advisability of constituting local Advisory Committees in view of the fact that Government already have proposed to hold a Conference of the trade interests in the matter and take their advice before they make their final choice?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque. Advisory Committees are attached to the Controller-General at Bombay of different trades. In addition to them, we have constituted a Consumers' Council wherein there are representatives of some of the newspaper interests of biggest circulation, members of this House, representatives of the public, educational interests and various other interests. Up till now we have had two meetings of this Council, which is representative of all the provinces. There has not been a single complaint on that score but I shall certainly go into this matter to find out if we can do anything further in this matter.

Sardar Sant Singh. May I ask the Honourable Member, especially after the challenge that he has held out and which I receive so far as Lyallpur is concerned, what steps has he taken to make it clear to the provincial persons who are in charge of this controlled business that the policy which is adopted by the Government of India is followed by them in actual practice?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque. We have repeatedly drawn the principles of the Circular to the notice of the provincial authorities and we get weekly reports. In addition to that, I have always received representations supported and endorsed by some of the Honourable Members of this House and have always looked into them.

Mr T S. Aynashlingam Chettiar. Have they made it clear to the local authorities that no political considerations should come in when they decide matters of licences?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque. Yes, Sir.

**COMMUNAL COMPOSITION IN HIGHER POSTS OF CERTAIN OFFICES UNDER THE
LABOUR DEPARTMENT**

127 *Sardar Sant Singh. (a) Will the Honourable Member for Labour please state specifically, and separately the number of posts carrying monthly salaries between Rs 500 and Rs 750, Rs 750 and Rs 1,000, Rs 1,000 and Rs 1,500, Rs 1,500 and above in (i) his Department (Labour), (ii) Central Public Works Department, (iii) the office of the Controller of Printing and Stationery, (iv) the Central Stationery Office, (v) the Central Forms Store, (vi) the Central Publication Branch, (vii) the Government of India Presses, (viii) the Explosives Department, and (ix) Miscellaneous?

(b) What is the number of (i) Europeans, (ii) Anglo-Indians, (iii) Muslims, (iv) Hindus, (v) Depressed Classes, (vi) Sikhs, and (vii) Indian Christians holding such posts? (Please give the number, separately for each community under each head.)

The Honourable Dr B R Ambedkar. (a) The distribution of the posts is as under

Departments	Posts carrying pay between			
	Rs 500— 750	Rs 750 1,000	Rs 1,000 1,500	1,500 and over
Labour Department	19	4	13	10
Central P. W. D.	25	50	2	15
Stationery and Printing	10	7	1	1
Explosives	2	1	1	1
Miscellaneous	71	70	24	26
Total	137	132	41	53

(b) A detailed statement showing the appointments made community-wise as laid on the table. The position in a summary form is as follows —

Statement I

Name of the community	Rs 500 and Rs 750					Posts Carrying Rs 750 and Rs 1,000				
	Lab Dept	Central P W D	Sty and Ptg	Misc	Total	Lab Dept	Central P W D	Sty and Ptg	Misc	Total
Europeans		3		1	4	2	5	5	10	31
Anglo-Indians		1		1	2		1	1	2	24
Muslims	1	4		11	16		9		9	18
Hindus	10	15	8	40	73	2	25	1	30	58
Sikhs				5	5		2		2	4
Scheduled Caste	1			3	4	3				3
Indian Christian	1	2	1	4	8	5			5	10
Others				1	8				2	4
				7 (Vacant)					2 (Vacant)	
Total	19	25	10	73	127	4	50	7	71	132

Pay Between

Name of the community	Rs 1,000 and Rs 1,500					Over Rs 1,500				
	Lab Dept	Central P W D	Sty and Ptg	Misc	Total	Lab Dept	C P W D	Sty and Ptg	Misc	Total
Europeans	2	1	1	7	11	4	8		15	27
Anglo-Indians							1			1
Muslims	3			3	6	2	1		1	4
Hindus	7	1		13	21	4	4	1	9	18
Sikhs							1			1
Scheduled Caste	1			2	3					
Indian Christian									1	1
Others									1 (Vacant)	1
Total	13	2	1	25	41	10	15	1	27	53

Statement II

Department	No of posts	Posts carrying pay between			
		Rs 500 and Rs 750	Rs 750 and Rs 1,000	Rs 1,000 and Rs 1,500	Rs 1,500 and over
Department of Labour	Between Rs 500 and Rs 750	19 1 (C)			
	Between Rs 750 and Rs 1,000	4 10 (H)	2 (E)	2 (E)	4 (E)
	Between Rs 1,000 and Rs 1,500	13 1 (M)	9 2 (H)	3 (M)	2 (M)
	Rs 1,500 and over	10 2 (S C)		7 (H)	4 (H)
	Total	46		1 (S C)	
Central P W D	Between Rs 500 and Rs 750	25 3 (E)	5 (E)	1 (H)	8 (H)
	Between Rs 750 and Rs 1,000	50 1 (A I)	1 (A I)	1 (H)	1 (A I)
	Between Rs 1,000 and Rs 1,500	2 4 (H)	9 (M)		1 (M)
	Rs 1,500 and over	15 15 (H)	25 (H)	15 (H)	4 (H)
	Total	92 2 (I C)	3 (S C) 2 (S) 5 (I C)		1 (S)
Controller of Printing and Stationery	Between Rs 500 and Rs 750	3 1 (A I)			1 (H)
	Between Rs 750 and Rs 1,500	2 2 (H)	2 (H)		
	Rs 1,500 and over	1	1 (A I)		
	Total	7			

Department	No of posts	Posts carrying pay between			
		Rs 500 and Rs 750	Rs 750 and Rs 1,000	Rs 1,000 and Rs 1,500	Rs 1,500 and over
Central Stationery Office	Between Rs 500 and Rs 750	4	4 (H)	1 (H)	
	Between Rs 750 and Rs 1,000	2		1 (H)	
	Total	6			
Central Forms Store	Between Rs 600 and Rs 750	1	1 (H)		
Central Publication Branch	Between Rs 500 and Rs 750	1	1 (I C)		
Government of India Presses	Between Rs 500 and Rs 750	1	1 (H)	2 (H)	1 (H)
	Between Rs 750 and Rs 1,500	3			
	Total	4			
Explosives Department	Between Rs 500 and Rs 750	2	2 (H)	1 (H)	1 (H)
	Between Rs 750 and Rs 1,000	1			
	Between Rs 1,000 and Rs 1,500	1			
	Between Rs 1,500 and over	1			
	Total	5			
Miscellaneous—					
Geological Survey of India	Between Rs 500 and Rs 750	9	5 (H)	5 (H)	5 (H)
Minor and School of Mines	Between Rs 750 and Rs 1,000	14	2 (H)	8 (H)	4 (H)
	Between Rs 1,000 and Rs 1,500	9	1 (I C)	1 (I C)	
	Between Rs 1,500 and over	12			
	Total	44			
Indian Waterways Experiment Station, Poona	Between Rs 750 and Rs 1,000	1		1 (H)	1 (H)
	Between Rs 1,500 and over	1			
	Total	2			
Civil Pioneer Jores	Between Rs 500 and Rs 750	27	1 (H)	8 (H)	2 (H)
	Between Rs 750 and Rs 1,000	29	8 (H)	1 (A I)	
	Between Rs 1,500 and over	2	10 (H)	10 (H)	
	Total	58	2 (S C)	1 (S)	
		65	1 (S)	2 (I C)	
		3	1 (I C)	7 (M)	
		1	1 (Paral)	2 (Vacant)	
		2	2 (vacant)		
Labour Welfare Adviser	Between Rs 500 and Rs 750	1	2 (H)	1 (H)	1 (H)
	Between Rs 750 and Rs 1,000	1	1 (M)		
	Between Rs 1,000 and Rs 1,500	1			
	Total	3			
Coordination Officer (Rys) and Supervisor of Rly Labour	Between Rs 500 and Rs 750	1	1 (H)	1 (M)	2 (S C)
	Between Rs 750 and Rs 1,000	2		1 (S)	2 (H)
	Between Rs 1,000 and Rs 1,500	5			1 (M)
	Rs 1,500 and over	1			
	Total	9			
Chief Adviser, Factory A R P's	Between Rs 500 and Rs 750	2	2 (H)	2 (H)	1 (H)
	Between Rs 750 and Rs 1,000	7		1 (Paral)	2 (H)
	Between Rs 1,000 and Rs 1,500	3		1 (M)	
	Rs 1,500 and over	2		3 (H)	
	Total	14			
Technical Training Scheme	Between Rs 500 and Rs 750	18	9 (H)	4 (H)	4 (H)
	Between Rs 750 and Rs 1,000	16	2 (M)	1 (A I)	1 (M)
	Between Rs 1,000 and Rs 1,500	5	1 (S)	8 (H)	4 (H)
	Rs 1,500 and over	9	1 (A I)	1 (I C)	1 (I C)
	Total	48	1 (vacant)	1 (Jew)	1 (vacant)
Labour Welfare Injury Scheme	Between Rs 500 and Rs 750	1	1 (S C)	1 (I C)	1 (M)
	Between Rs 750 and Rs 1,000	1			
	Between Rs 1,000 and Rs 1,500	1			
	Total	3			

NOTE.—H stands for Hindus, M for Muslims, E for Europeans, A I for Anglo-Indians, S C for Scheduled Class, S for Sikhs, I C for Indian Christians, O C Other Minority Community.
 *79 posts held by British Specialist instructors directly recruited in the U K have not been included in the statement.

RELEGATED POSITION OF INDIAN REPRESENTATIVES IN PHOTOGRAPH OF IMPERIAL WAR CONFERENCE

128 *Sardar Sant Singh: Will the Honourable Member for Commonwealth Relations please state if it is a fact that in a photograph taken of all delegates from the various colonies and dependencies of the British Commonwealth to the War Conference held in London the two representatives of India, the Honourable Sir Feroze Khan Noon and His Highness the Maharaja of Kashmir, were

made to stand behind the chairs occupied by the representatives of the colonies? If so, are the Government of India aware that it has given great offence to the Indian public for keeping His Highness the Maharaja of Kashmir as an inferior to the white representatives from the colonies?

The Honourable Dr N B Khare I have seen a group photograph but have no information if the Honourable Sir Feroz Khan Noon and His Highness the Maharaja of Kashmir were made to stand as they did. I have also no information about the feeling of the Indian public.

Sardar Sant Singh May I know what were his own reactions after seeing the photograph that the representatives of India were made to stand behind the Premiers of the Dominions?

The Honourable Dr N B Khare These two gentlemen were standing along with a good number of white gentlemen and it does not appear to me that the position of inequality in the photograph was decided on racial grounds. I do not think that my countrymen are so foolish as to raise a storm in a tea cup. The matter is so trivial that no further enquiry is required.

Sardar Sant Singh Is the Honourable Member aware that there is a definite policy behind the allotment of positions in the photograph and that it is to stress the inferiority of the Indian delegates attending the conference, and yet my Honourable friend calls it a storm in a tea cup?

The Honourable Dr N B Khare I am not aware.

Sardar Sant Singh Everybody who saw this photograph remarked to this effect and they did not like it.

Mr President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) Next question.

RISE IN PRICE OF COTTON IN INDIA AND AMERICA

129 •Mr Govind V Deshmukh Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies please state

(a) what at present is the percentage gain over the August, 1939, price to the cotton cultivator in India and the United States of America,

(b) the percentage increase in the price of Indian cotton cloth over the price in August, 1939, and

(c) the index of the cost of living, assuming the index of 1939 equal to 100, in India as well as in the United States of America?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque (a) For the purpose of the comparison desired by the Honourable Member I have taken the percentage increase since August 1939, in the prices of Medium Staple Indian cotton and American Middling. The increase in the Indian cotton price has been 115 per cent, and in the case of the American cotton 141 per cent.

(b) The percentage increase in the price of Indian cotton cloth in October 1944 as against August 1939 was 161 per cent.

(c) The cost of living index in the U S A in April 1944 was 26 per cent over the index in 1939. No all-India cost of living index numbers are maintained, but an averaging out of the cost of living indices for big cities in India shows that the increase over the 1939 figure has been about 182 per cent.

Prof N G Ranga What steps do Government propose to take to see that the cotton cultivator gets at least as much as is justified by the rise in the index number of prices and also by a fall in the value of money due to inflation caused by the Honourable the Finance Member?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque It is very difficult to answer this in reply to a supplementary question. I can assure my Honourable friend that we have taken all possible steps to guarantee a minimum price for the cotton cultivator.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh What steps do Government propose to take to reduce the all-India cost of living index number which stands at about 182 per cent?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque So far as my Department is concerned, we have taken all possible steps for the last 18 months to bring down the prices. Today, the fact that it is 161 per cent as against 395 in the middle of

June, 1943, is largely due to control measures which we have taken in the Department

Mr Govind V. Deshmukh: I am referring to the cost of living index number which is 182 per cent

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: The administrative responsibility for all these things depends upon other Departments to whom my Honourable friend must address this question. But so far as the Industries and Civil Supplies Department is concerned, I have answered that we have taken considerable steps to bring down the price.

Mr Govind V. Deshmukh: Will my Honourable friend make enquiries and find out if any other measures are necessary to bring down the cost of living index numbers?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: As far as I am aware, quite a considerable measure has been taken, as a result of which the price of rice which was ranging between Rs. 30 and Rs. 25 last year has come down to between Rs. 10 and 7 this year in the part of the country affected by famine.

INDIANS SHOT IN POLICE FIRING IN MAURITIUS

130 *Mr Govind V. Deshmukh: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Commonwealth Relations please state with reference to his answer to my starred question No. 241, given on the 17th November, 1943, in connection with 'Indians shot in Police firing in Mauritius', if the report of the Commission of Enquiry referred to in the answer has now been received? If so, will it be placed on the table? If not, why not?

(b) What is the summary of the report?

(c) Have the Government considered the advisability of appointing an Indian who will be on the spot to look after the interest of Indians as suggested by me in one of the supplementary questions?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: (a) and (b) The Report has not yet been received but is expected to be published shortly.

(c) The question will be considered but I may say that at present there are four Indian inspectors of labour to look after the interests of the Indian labourers.

Mr Govind V. Deshmukh: May I remind the Honourable Member that the same answer was given last time when I put this question, namely that the report has not been received. Is there any explanation as to why there is so much delay in submitting the report?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: May I point out to my Honourable friend that the same situation still continues.

Mr. President: (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) The answers to Questions Nos. 131, 132 and 133 of Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad will be laid on the table, as he has exhausted his quota.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: May I represent to you, Sir, that since the answers to these questions are laid on the table, the House is denied the opportunity of putting supplementary questions and may I therefore request you to allow supplementary questions to be put tomorrow after going through the answers laid on the table?

Mr. President: (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) No, no, that cannot be allowed under the rules.

IMPORT OF FOODGRAINS

†131 *Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: (a) Will the Honourable the Food Member please state the total quantity of import of foodgrains expected in the year 1944-45?

(b) What suggestions has the Food Department given for the production of rice whose import has been curtailed owing to the closing of the Rangoon Market?

† Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner having exhausted his quota.

The Honourable Sir M. Asif Ali Khan: (a) It is not possible to state at present the total quantity of foodgrains expected to be received from overseas during the year 1944-45 as His Majesty's Government are reviewing the position in the month of November and it is not known yet what quantities will be shipped during the first quarter of 1945.

However, I may state for the information of the Honourable Member that 800,000 tons of foodgrains was promised to be shipped during the year ending the 30th of September, 1944, and a further 300,000 tons of wheat and wheat products has been promised for shipment during the last quarter of 1944.

(b) The 'Grow More Food Campaign' started by the Government of India in March, 1942, includes increased production of rice also. The following schemes have been sanctioned for the increased production of rice:

- (i) Distribution of improved seeds of paddy at concessional rates
- (ii) Multiplication of improved strains of paddy seeds
- (iii) Distribution of manures at concessional rates for manuring paddy fields
- (iv) Reclamation of waste lands
- (v) Construction irrigation works, e.g., wells tanks and tube wells

The Government of India have allotted for paddy 30,000 tons of ammonium sulphate out of 65,000 tons which will be received in India during 1944-45. About 17,500 tons have been allotted to provinces and States from current stock.

Subsidies have been promised by the Central Government for the distribution of ammonium sulphate at concessional rates for paddy. The Central Government have also given financial assistance to the Provinces in the forms of loans and grants for financing various food production schemes.

In addition to the above, steps have been taken to increase the quantities of rice available for consumption by restricting the overpolishing of rice in milling. A number of provinces and states have issued orders regarding undermilling of rice.

EXPENDITURE ON BUILDINGS IN DELHI

†132. ***Dr Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad:** (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state how much money have the Government of India spent on buildings—permanent and temporary—in Delhi?

(b) How much was provided by (i) loan, (ii) revenue, and (iii) by land and lease arrangements?

(c) What would happen to these buildings after the war?

The Honourable Dr B. R. Ambedkar: (a) The total cost of permanent and temporary, office and residential accommodation, constructed since 1930, is Rs. 6.88 crores.

(b) The information asked for is not readily available.

(c) Permanent buildings will be retained after the war. As regards temporary buildings, it is the intention of Government to demolish them as soon as practicable after the war, as and when the sites are required for the development of Delhi.

DEMOLITION OF TEMPORARY BUILDINGS

†133. ***Dr Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad:** (a) Has the Honourable the Labour Member suggested to his Department that the buildings will be constructed in a manner that they may be pulled down soon after the war which will involve additional expenditure of the money?

(b) Are the Government contemplating to demolish temporary buildings? What would be the cost of demolition and what would be the manner in which these buildings will be pulled down?

The Honourable Dr B. R. Ambedkar: (a) No. The primary object of the buildings is to meet war requirements and they have been constructed in a manner and on sites most suitable to meet such requirements. This has involved in most cases temporary construction on sites which will be required for other purposes after the war. The actual order of demolition of the buildings must

†Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner having exhausted his quota.

depend on the programme laid down for the utilisation of the sites and the development of Delhi

(b) Yes It is not possible at present to estimate the cost of demolition and to lay down the manner in which the buildings will be pulled down

SUICIDE BY A STUDENT OF THE LADY HARDINGE COLLEGE, DELHI

134. *Mr Lalchand Navalrai: (a) Has the attention of the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands been drawn to a report in the *Sind Observer*, dated the 9th September, 1944, that Miss Prakash Khurana, a fifth year student of the Lady Hardinge College was found dead in her room in the College hostel? If so, what was the cause of the suicide?

(b) Has the attention of the Honourable Member been drawn to the fact that there is a lack of supervision and check on the girl students?

(c) Is it not a fact that the girls are freely allowed to go about outside the college without any attendant?

(d) Is it a fact that the girls go for evening walks and return too late when the compound doors are closed and they secretly jump over the compound walls?

(e) Is it a fact that there is a restaurant within the college premises where even outsiders go even at late hours?

(f) Since how long does the present Lady Principal and the manageress of the college hold her post and what arrangement has she made to guard against the above mentioned evasions?

(g) Is there any Committee in existence connected with the management of the affairs in the college? If so, who are they, and how many meetings of such a Committee took place during this year and the last?

(h) What steps do Government propose to take for a better supervision and check?

Mr J D Tyson (i) Yes In recording a finding that death was by suicide The Magistrate has assigned no reason but letters left by the deceased indicate that she thought she was going mad

(b) No

(c) Between 4 P M and 8 P M the students are allowed outside the College without any attendant

(d) and (e) No

(f) The present Principal has held office since November 1943 and the Warden (Manageress) from December, 1936 There is a wire fencing all round and Durwans on watch on the closed door at the gates It is not considered possible for the students to enter the College premises after the closing hour without the knowledge of the authorities

(g) The management of the College is entrusted to the Governing Body and the Executive Committee of the College and Hospital Ordinarily the former meets twice a year and latter once in two months The Governing Body met twice during 1943 and so far it has met once in 1944 The Executive Committee held seven meetings during 1943 and seven meetings so far during 1944 A list showing the composition of these two bodies is laid on the table of the House

(h) Government have no reason to believe that supervision is not adequate

composition of the Governing Body of the Lady Hardinge Medical College and Hospital, New Delhi

President

The Director General, Indian Medical Service (Lt General J B Hance, CIE, OBE, KHS, IMS, till 10th August 1944 and Major General W C Paton, MC, KHP, IMS, from 11th August 1944)

Members

The Chief Commissioner, Delhi, (Mr A V Askwith, CIE, ICS)
The Chief Engineer, Delhi (Mr A W H Dean, CIE MC ED)
The Educational Commissioner with the Government of India (Mr John Sergeant, CIE)
The Chief Medical Officer, Women's Medical Service (Dr H M Lamsar, WMS)

A representative elected by the members of the All India Association of Medical Women (Dr J R Dadabhai, Bombay)
 The Surgeon to H E the Viceroy, (Lt Colonel H Williamson, OBE, IMS (Retd))
 Six members nominated by the Government of India as follows
 2 members of the Legislative Assembly—
 (1) Sir Syed Raza Ali, CBE, M L A
 (2) Sardar Sant Singh, M L A
 One member of the Council of State
 The Honourable Mr P N Sarda
 One prominent Indian lady of Delhi
 Mrs H Sen, Principal, Lady Irwin College, New Delhi
 One prominent Indian gentleman of Delhi
 Rai Bahadur Ram Kishore, Advocate
 One local Medical Officer
 (The Chief Medical Officer, Delhi Lt Col R McRobert, IMS)
 A prominent businessman of Delhi
 Mr L W Woodward, Agent, Imperial Bank of India, Delhi
 The Deputy Director General, Indian Medical Service (Col S L Bhatia, MC, IMS)
 Honorary Secretary
 Honorary Treasurer
 An officer nominated by the Government of India (Mr M Hashim, MA, LLB, Joint Financial Adviser, Supply Finance, New Delhi)

Composition of the Executive Committee of the Lady Hardinge Medical College and Hospital

The Educational Commissioner with the Government of India (Mr John Sargent, OBE)
 Chairman
 Members
 Rai Bahadur Ram Kishore, Advocate, Delhi
 The Chief Medical Officer, Delhi (Lt Colonel R McRobert)
 The Chief Medical Officer, Women's Medical Service (Lt Colonel H M Lazarus, WMS)
 The Honorary Secretary to the Governing Body (Colonel S L Bhatia, MC, IMS)
 The Honorary Treasurer to the Governing Body (M Hashim, Esq, MA, LLB, Joint Financial Adviser, Supply Finance)
 Mr L W Woodward, Agent, Imperial Bank of India, Delhi
 Secretary
 Dr R E R Mitton, WMS, Principal, Lady Hardinge Medical College
 In the absence of the Chairman, the members present shall elect one of their number to be Chairman

Mr Lalchand Navai Are there any Members of this House on these Committees which the Honourable Member mentioned?

Mr J D Tyson There are two Members of this House on the Governing Body

Mr Lalchand Navai Are there any indications that before this girl's death, she was administered a rebuke?

Mr J D Tyson. Yes, Sir, a Member of the staff had noticed that she had become very inattentive to her lectures and in her duties and she asked one of her colleagues on the staff to get into touch with the girl privately and discreetly and try to find out if there was something in the matter. Unfortunately the girl kept very much to herself for the two or three days after this was noticed and then she committed suicide before the lady who was asked to find out was able to make touch with her

Mr. Govind V Deshmukh Was any post mortem held?

Mr J D Tyson Yes, Sir

Mr Lalchand Navai Was the condition of the girl communicated to her, parents or guardian before she died?

Mr J D Tyson: There was nothing very definite to communicate. She was inattentive at her lectures and classes but there was nothing to communicate at that stage

ACCOMMODATION CONSTRUCTED IN DELHI AND NEW DELHI

†135. *Sir F. E. James: Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state

(a) for how many officers and staff (i) office, and (ii) residential accommodation has been constructed in Delhi and New Delhi by the Central Public Works Department since the beginning of the War,

+Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner being absent

(b) the total cost of (i) the temporary, and (ii) the permanent accommodation so erected,

(c) what temporary office and residential accommodation is now under construction and at what estimated cost,

(d) whether any further temporary construction is under consideration, and, if so, for what purpose, and

(e) what plans are being made for the removal of the temporary constructions after the war, and for the disposal and utilisation of the materials employed in their erection?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) Since the beginning of the war the construction of office accommodation to the extent of 12,24,516 sq ft and roofed residential accommodation for 960 officers and 745 clerks has been completed. These figures do not include accommodation provided for the Far Eastern Bureau of the British Ministry of Information, the South East Asia Command and the U S A Forces. Information regarding the number of officers and staff for whom the office accommodation has been constructed is not readily available.

(b) The total costs of office and residential accommodation, constructed since 1939, are (i) Rs. 5.20 crores for temporary accommodation and (ii) Rs. 1.09 crores for permanent accommodation.

(c) A statement containing the required information and also information regarding permanent accommodation under construction is placed on the table of the House.

(d) No further proposal has as yet been approved.

(e) It has been decided to remove the temporary buildings as soon as possible after the War. The question of the disposal and utilisation of the materials is under consideration.

Statement of temporary and permanent office and residential accommodation now under construction and their estimated cost.

Description of accommodation	Estimated cost Rs
I—Temporary—	
1 Additional residential accommodation for G H Q Signals Officers	Not readily available
2 1000 Single Clerks Quarters at Kitchener Road	23,41,000
3 Accommodation for 367 clerks at Asmara and Masawa Lines. (by alteration of existing temporary buildings)	1,62,000
4 68 married clerks' and 224 single clerks' quarters in Tibbia College, Hostel compound	21,00,000
5 Accommodation for 200 single officers in existing Government Hostels	7,80,000
6 Hostel for 160 married officers on King Edward Road	Not readily available
7 Office accommodation of 3,05,043 sq ft	39,65,559
I—Permanent—	
50 'D' type and 168 'E' type clerks' quarters on Railway land near Minto Road	23,67,386
2 2,468 clerks' quarters on Lodhi Road	2,94,00,000
3 228 married clerks' quarters in 12 acres of land in Karol Bagh	32,00,000
4 8 'E' type clerks' quarters in Aram Bagh	80,000
5 Three-storeyed flats for 120 clerks on Chitra Gupta Road	15,00,000

RECONDITIONING OF BOATS REMOVED FROM COASTAL AREAS OF BENGAL UNDER DENIAL POLICY

136. ***Mr. K. C. Neogy:** Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to refer to the statement made by the Director-General of Food in the Council of State on the 16th March last, in connection with the scheme of the Bengal Government of reconditioning boats which were removed from the coastal areas of Bengal under the Denial Policy, which had, according to him, "very considerably affected trade movements in that areas", and that the Bengal Government had taken in hand repairs of about 10,000 of these boats, and also that these boats were expected to be ready before the rains this year, and state.

- (a) the total number of boats that had either been removed or destroyed in the coastal areas of Bengal under the Denial policy;
- (b) how many out of the above number have been reconditioned, repaired and made available to the people concerned before the rains this year, and

(c) how many other boats are under repairs or construction at present and when they are likely to be made available to the people concerned?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) It is possible to give precise figures only in respect of those boats which were surrendered at the various reception centres. That number is 26,935.

(b) Of this number 5,984 have been made available to the civil population.

(c) The Government of Bengal have sanctioned construction programme for 10,000 boats of which, they hope, that 5,000 will be ready by the end of the present year.

Mr. K. O. Neogy: With reference to part (b), may I know how many of these boats were actually returned before the rains, as was promised by the Central Government in the other House?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I shall require notice of that specific point.

Mr. K. O. Neogy: Is it a fact that very few boats were actually reconditioned before the rains?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: All we can say is that every step was taken to recondition boats but the reconditioning of so many thousands of boats must necessarily take time. But if my Honourable friend wants a specific date I must ask for notice.

Mr. K. O. Neogy: Will the Honourable Member find out, when he makes an inquiry, the exact reasons that stood in the way of the Government of Bengal in fulfilling the promise given by the Central Government in this behalf?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: Yes, Sir, I will.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Were any steps taken by the Central Government to pay any compensatory allowances to these people who were left unemployed because of their boats being compulsorily taken away by Government?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: In every case where boats were surrendered at the reception centre, compensation was paid.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Did that compensation cover only the cost of the boat taken away or the loss of employment caused by the confiscation of the boat?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: We have no figures to analyse that, but all we can say is that the amount which was paid was more than the price which was usually available.

STEPS FOR REDUCING SLAUGHTER OF CATTLE.

137. *Mr. K. O. Neogy: Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state

(a) what steps the Government of India have taken in order to reduce the number of cattle slaughtered in this country,

(b) the nature of steps taken by the Government of India in order to see that prime cattle, such as those below the age of 10 years, or milch cattle and pregnant cattle are not slaughtered; and

(c) whether the Government of India have satisfied themselves that the Provincial Governments, Army authorities and military and other contractors have scrupulously followed the instructions of the Government of India in regard to the slaughter of cattle?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) and (b). A copy of the press note issued on 26th July 1944, narrating the steps taken by Government is laid on the table.

(c) Six provinces, *viz.*, Madras, Bombay, Bihar, the United Provinces, the Central Provinces and Assam have issued orders under the Defence of India Rules prohibiting the slaughter of useful cattle; the others have the matter under their consideration. The military authorities have issued orders to various commands prescribing the categories of cattle which may not be purchased for slaughter. Inspections are being carried out from time to time to see that the instructions are complied with.

No F 24/14/44-PUB
Dated 26th July 1944

Restrictions on Cattle Slaughter on lines adopted by Army Authorities.

Restrictions on the slaughter of cattle for civilian purposes, on the lines already adopted by the army authorities, and the prescribing of meatless days each week have been recommended by the Government of India in a circular to all Provincial Governments. The aim is to preserve the cattle wealth of the country, particularly working cattle, cows in milk or pregnant, and young stock.

The army authorities have agreed to prohibit the slaughter, or sale for slaughter, of (1) cattle below three years of age, (2) male cattle between 3 and 10 years which can be used for work, (3) all cows between 3 and 10 years which are capable of producing milk, excepting those which are unsuitable for breeding and (4) all cows which are pregnant or in milk. Any civil veterinary authority can object to the slaughter of a particular animal, and for this purpose has the right of access to the military butchery pens. The military authorities fix minimum prices for all purchases after consultation with the local Purchase Committees on which both military and civil authorities are represented.

The Government of India have requested all Provincial Governments to take early action in this matter, either by issuing similar orders or by modifying existing orders on these lines. It is understood that certain restrictions on the slaughter of cattle for civilian consumption are already in force in the Provinces of Madras, Bombay, the U. P., the C. P., Bihar and Assam, while Bengal and Assam have fixed certain days in the week as meatless days.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Will the Honourable Member find out the reason, if that is possible, why the Government of Bengal have taken such a long time to come to a decision on this matter?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I think I can tell the Honourable Member the reason that has been given. The Government of Bengal have approached it in rather a different way and they imposed either one or two meatless days a week, and they wanted to see whether that would have the desired effect instead of issuing an order in the terms suggested to them by us. And I understand that this cause has had, according to their figures, a considerable effect.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Is it a fact that in spite of the meatless days proposed by the Government of Bengal, the proportion of cattle slaughtered in Bengal is about the highest among all the provinces of India so far?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: It used to be so before, I cannot say whether it is now.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Are Government aware that more cattle are slaughtered in India than are born by natural causes and that if this process continues the 'Grow More Food' campaign might actually become 'Grow Less Food'?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I am not aware that more are being slaughtered than are being born by natural processes.

Mr. Manu Subedar: On what basis is the Honourable Member giving this information to the House that more are not slaughtered? Will he produce figures before this House either now or in the course of the food debate or at any time during this Session to show that the number of cattle that are born by natural processes is more than the number slaughtered, not only in the civil slaughter houses but also by the military and by contractors and those which are going into ships? Will Government take some reasonable steps to avoid the catastrophe that is lurking behind this process?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I will examine the point raised in this rather long question when I see the manuscript.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will Government consider the advisability of either importing cattle into this country to be consumed by the army or request the army to reduce the slaughter and consumption of cattle and beef?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I cannot speak for the army but I believe both processes are going on. I believe they are importing a considerable quantity of meat and also making arrangements for cold storage, and they have also cut down their requirements of meat.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Why is it impossible for the Government of India to press the army to reduce their consumption of beef in this country?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: Because the consumption of meat in the army is infinitesimal as compared with other slaughter and deaths from natural causes.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Are Government satisfied that the consumption of beef by the army is absolutely the minimum?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: That is very difficult for my Department to answer.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Are Government aware of any processes other than natural by which cattle can be born?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: The question should be addressed to the Honourable Member who raised that point.

RISE IN PRICES OF MILCH AND FARM CATTLE.

138. *Mr. K. C. Neogy: Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state

(a) whether it is a fact that prices of milch and farm cattle have gone up by 300 to 400 per cent. in various parts of India as compared with the pre-war prices,

(b) whether the Government of India have taken any steps to ensure that farmers are able to purchase milch and farm cattle at prices within their means, and

(c) whether the Government of India have taken any steps to see that the Army authorities or the slaughter houses do not offer high prices in order to unduly induce the farmers and the cattle-owners to part with their cattle for slaughter?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) No reliable figures are available but it is probably correct that prices of livestock have increased in sympathy with the general trend of prices and in excess of that trend in some areas.

(b) It is not considered practicable to control the price of cattle but the Government of India have indicated to Provincial Governments the lines on which cultivators should be advised to conserve their livestock and to increase good breeding stock.

(c) The military authorities have agreed to fix maximum prices for all purchases after consultation with the local Purchase Committees on which both military and civil authorities are represented.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Arising out of part (d), will the Honourable Member be pleased to indicate the nature of the instructions which they have sent down to the Provincial Governments?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: It is rather long.

CREATION OF CENTRAL TECHNICAL POWER BOARD

139. *Mr. K. C. Neogy: Will the Honourable Member for Labour be pleased to state

(a) whether Government have any plans for the creation of a Central Technical Power Board,

(b) whether it is a fact that the Chairmanship of this Board has been offered to a former employee of the British Firm of Messrs Merz and Mclellan, and that one of the two seats on the Board has been filled by an American Engineer,

(c) whether his attention has been drawn to reports that Government are considering the appointment of Messrs Merz and Mclellan, and the American Bond and Share Company as consulting engineers, and, if so, whether they are true,

(d) whether these two American and British firms, respectively, have acquired any interest in the erection or operation of electrical undertakings in India so far, and what they are,

(e) whether it is a fact that a Committee of leading Power Engineers, appointed by Government early this year have reported that India would require electrical plant to the value of Rs 400 crores, and that Government have accepted this recommendation, and

(f) whether Government would publish full details of the recommendations of the above-mentioned Committee?

The Honourable Dr. B. E. Ambedkar: (a) Yes

(b) Yes, but in the case of the former he has for the last three years and nine months been in the service of the Government of India as Electrical Commissioner.

(c) Government have seen certain press reports to this effect but they are not correct as they have not yet taken into consideration the question of appointing consulting engineers

(d) In so far as Messrs Merz and Mclellan are concerned, the reply is in the negative. Government, however, understand that the Electric Bond and Share Company of U. S. A. (and not the American Bond and Share Company) which is a holding company has substantial interest in the Tata Hydro Electric Agencies and the United Eastern Agencies who are Managing Agents for the electric supply undertakings at Karachi, Broach, Nasik-Deolali and Poona

(e) No

(f) Steps are being taken to publish the proceedings of the Conference

Mr. K. C. Neogy: When may we expect to see these recommendations?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I think in about a week's time

Mr. Manu Subedar: With reference to part (e) of the question, can the Honourable Member give us some idea of the figure, if it is not 400 crores?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I have not got the facts before me

CONVICTION OF MR PARTAP SINGH, MARKET INSPECTOR, NEW DELHI

140. ***Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi:** (a) Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state if it is a fact that Mr Partap Singh, Market Inspector, Health Department, New Delhi Municipal Committee, was convicted on the 12th August, 1934, under section 161, I P C (Bribery), by the Resident Magistrate, New Delhi and was sentenced to eight months rigorous imprisonment? If so, what action was taken against the said Mr Partap Singh by the New Delhi Municipal Committee?

(b) Are Government aware that Mr Partap Singh is still under suspension and is in receipt of a subsistence allowance? If so, is it admissible under the Government Servants Conduct Rules to retain a hand after his conviction by a court of law? If the answer to the latter part of (b) be in the negative, why has the said Inspector been not so far removed from service?

(c) Is it a fact that the Resident Magistrate New Delhi, bitterly criticised in the course of his judgment the conduct of the Assistant Medical Officer of Health, Captain Ram Dayal, as an interested party in the above-mentioned case of Mr Partap Singh's conviction? If so, was this criticism the basis of Captain Ram Dayal's resignation, or did he resign for any other reasons?

(d) Are Government aware that efforts are being made to re-employ the said Assistant Medical Officer of Health in the New Delhi Municipal Committee?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) Yes. He was placed under suspension pending decision on his appeal.

(b) Mr Partap Singh is still under suspension but he has not been paid any subsistence allowance since the date of his conviction.

(c) The convicting Magistrate criticised the evidence of Captain Ram Dayal as a defence witness in the case. Captain Ram Dayal resigned on grounds of ill health.

(d) No.

I should perhaps say in continuation that since this answer was drafted Mr Partap Singh has been acquitted by the appellate court.

COMMUNAL COMPOSITION OF CERTAIN POSTS IN HEALTH DEPARTMENT OF NEW DELHI MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE

141. ***Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi:** Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please lay on the table a statement showing the communal composition of the following posts in the Health Department of the New Delhi Municipal Committee —

- (i) Assistant Medical Officer of Health,
- (ii) Anti-Malaria Officer,
- (iii) School Medical Officer,
- (iv) Chief Sanitary Inspector,
- (v) Superintendent, Vaccination.

- (vi) Head Clerk,
- (vii) Municipal Building Inspector,
- (viii) Sanitary Inspector, and
- (ix) Clerks

Mr. J. D. Tyson: A statement giving the communal composition of the posts referred to is laid on the table

Statement giving the communal composition of the posts in the Health Department of the New Delhi Municipal Committee

Particulars of posts	Strength	Hindus	Moham- madans	Sikhs	Chris- tians	Sche- duled castes	Vacant
Assistant MOH	1						1
Anti-Malaria Officer	1	1					
School Medical Officers	2	2					
Ch. Sanitary Inspector	1	1	..				
Supdt. Vaccination	1	1					..
Head Clerk	1	1					..
Mun. Building Inspector	1	1					..
Sanitary Inspectors	7	4	1	1	1		
Clerks	8	5	1			..	
Total	21	16	2	1	1		1

POSTS OF HEAD CLERK IN NEW DELHI MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE

142. *Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi: (a) Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state the total number of posts in the cadre of Head Clerk in the New Delhi Municipal Committee?

(b) Are the holders of the posts of Head Clerk liable to inter-branch transfers?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) Five

(b) Yes

RETIRED MILITARY OFFICERS APPOINTED IN FOOD DEPARTMENT

143. *Mr. K. C. Neogy: (a) Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to make a statement giving the number of retired military officers who have been given appointments in the Food Department, the appointments held by them at the time of retirement, and the appointments that they hold now, together with their past and present salaries?

(b) What special qualification or experience make them particularly suitable for the posts to which they have been appointed in the Food Department?

The Honourable Sir M. Anzul Hogue: (a) A statement is laid on the table

(b) They had given proof of administrative capacity in staff and command posts and had special experience in handling problems of supply

Statement showing the retired military officers employed in the Food Department

No	Name	Appointment held at the time of retirement	Post held in the Food Department	Past Salary per month	Present Salary per month
1	Lt. General Sir Clarence A. Bird, K. C. I. B., C. B., D. S. O. (Retd.)	Master General of Ordnance in India.	Regional Food Commissioner, Punjab Region	Rs. 4,000 p.m.	Rs. 4,000 including car allowance, less pension* drawn.
2	Lt. Col. G. B. Nokes, R. I. A. S. C. (Retd.)	Officer Commanding 'A' Supply Department, Ferozapore	Deputy Regional Food Commissioner, Bombay Region.	Rs. 2,130 (including allowances)	Rs. 800 as pay + Rs. 100 as Bombay Compensatory allowance exclusive of pension of Rs. 825-5 p.m.

* (Rs. 1,250 per annum)

Mr. K. O. Neogy What is the total number?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: Two

Mr. T. S. Avinashlingam Chettiar: What are the names of the posts to which they have been appointed?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: Regional Food Commissioner, Punjab, and Deputy Regional Food Commissioner, Bombay

PAPER STOCK AND PAPER ECONOMY MEASURES

144. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies be pleased to state the stock of paper in the hands of Government on the date when the paper control was introduced?

(b) What steps were taken by Government to effect economy in the consumption of paper by Government Departments including the Defence Department?

(c) What measure of success has been achieved in making such economy?

(d) Can Government give any adequate reasons why further economies in the use of paper by Government Departments is not possible, as suggested in all directions from the public?

(e) Is it a fact that Government have not exerted themselves and, in any case, have not succeeded in securing shipping space for paper to an appreciable extent either before or immediately after they instituted the paper control?

(f) What measures were taken to increase the import of paper pulp, news print and other kinds of paper, respectively?

(g) What imports have been received, and what further imports are expected?

(h) Would Government consider the relaxation of the thirty per cent limitation given to the public in the consumption of paper, and, if so, by what method, and in what direction?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) All-India figures are not available. The stock in the Central Stationery Office and the Government of India presses would be 2,500 tons approximately. This represents less than two months' consumption. The collection of figures from all Central Government offices and Provincial Governments, etc., will involve a good deal of labour and time which will not be commensurate with the result to be achieved.

(b) A statement of description of the measures is laid on the table of the House.

(c) Government have been able to reduce their requirement from 90 per cent of the Indian production reserved between October 1942 to March 1943 to 70 per cent since April 1943 and 65 per cent between October and December 1944. Enforcement of paper economy measures has in many cases resulted in reduction of paper consumption by 50 per cent. Two statements showing approximate savings effected during 1942 and 1943 are laid on the table of the House. They are not exhaustive and leave out several items for which savings effected were not recorded.

(d) Further economy may be possible and the matter is under the constant review of Government. All suggestions received by the Government of India are carefully considered and adopted wherever possible.

(e) No.

(f) and (g) It is not in the public interest to disclose this information. Government have constantly been endeavouring to obtain increased imports of woodpulp, newsprint and other kinds of paper. Considerable quantities of these articles have been received during the first 9 months of 1944 and further quantities are expected. Comparison shows that quantities imported during the present year were larger than those imported in the last year.

(h) Yes, when supply position justifies this action. The method and direction will depend on the circumstances existing at the time.

Statements

Labour Department have been alive to the necessity of securing the utmost economy in the consumption of paper for some considerable time. With this end in view the Controller

Printing and Stationery was declared Paper Economy Officer and *ex-officio* Deputy Secretary to the Government of India in June 1940. In 1942, on the recommendation of the W. R. C. C. the paper economy staff of the Controller was strengthened by the appointment of four inspectors of Stationery, who were stationed at Delhi (2), Calcutta (1) and Bombay (1). The duties of these Inspectors are to see that the various paper economy instructions issued from time to time are strictly adopted in various Departments and offices of the Government of India throughout India. A Paper Economy Officer and an Assistant Paper Economy Officer have also been appointed to inspect G. H. Q. and units and formations of Defence Services in India with the same purpose in view.

2. Every possible device to secure economy in the consumption of paper is being adopted. The action taken is summarised briefly below.

I. General instructions have been issued from time to time suggesting the ways and means to achieve the maximum economy in the consumption of paper. More important of such instructions are:

- (a) utilize both sides of note sheets and other paper,
- (b) type in single spacing,
- (c) use of economy slips on envelopes,
- (d) correct way of cutting stencils keeping in view the paper economy factor etc. etc.

II. Economy in the use of paper is also achieved by:

(a) discontinuance of the printing of publications which are not directly connected with war efforts.

(b) printing instead of duplicating where number of copies required is hundred and more,

(c) discontinuance of forms which are not essential and reducing the sizes of others to the barest minimum.

III. Eliminating the demands for new paper by:

(a) the use of blank spaces in obsolete forms and blank pages in the old records which mature for destruction,

(b) use of slates for rough work,

(c) discontinuance of the supply of slip blocks.

(d) imposing the following cuts on demands for paper and paper items:

Description	Percentage cut imposed
	Per cent
Writing paper including note sheets, draft forms, etc.	50
Blotting paper	33½
Envelopes (smaller size)	75
Envelopes (bigger size)	50
Overall cut on all Government demands for Paper and articles made of paper during 1944-45	20

A copy of the pamphlet containing extracts of important Government orders on paper economy and a "card" (Copy placed in the Library of the House) containing paper economy points must for kinds of documents are enclosed. Important paper economy instructions have also been brought to the notice of Provincial Governments for similar action.

3. The total paper production of India was estimated during 1943-44 at one lakh tons per annum. As the requirements of Government were estimated at 70,000 tons, 70 per cent of the total Indian production was reserved for Government requirements. The supply of paper is made to the various Departments of the Central Government and the Provincial Governments against the quotas allotted to them by the Controller of Printing and Stationery who reduces the quantity of paper allotted for whenever he feels that in view of certain paper economy conditions, reduction is called for.

Statement showing the approximate savings effected by the Paper economy campaign in 1942

	Rs.
1. Savings effected by curtailment of demands for paper in indents submitted by the Central Civil non paying departments to the Central Stationery Office	1,40,100
2. Savings effected by reduction of sizes of several Defence Department's forms, dispensing with binding cloth and rat canvas, and changing of binding style to cheaper style	1,79,800
3. Savings effected by restricting the issues of various standard forms	80,400
4. Savings effected by reducing the sizes of standard forms	87,800
5. Savings effected by discontinuing the printing of table calendars	2,400
6. Savings effected by the substitution of less expensive items in printing and binding of forms, publications and other miscellaneous items and by the use of old boards covers, etc., furnished by the departments and substitution of less expensive styles of binding, in the Government of India Presses	9,500
7. Savings in stores and stationery, forms etc., effected in Government of India Presses and Central Publication Branch	1,100
8. Savings effected by the use of assorted off-cuts in the Government of India Presses	10,000
9. Savings effected by the use of paper strips instead of envelopes in the Government of India Presses	100
Total	5,11,200

Statement showing the approximate savings effected by the Paper economy campaign in 1943.

	Rs
1 Savings effected by curtailment of demands for paper in indenta submitted by the Central Civil non-paying departments to the Central Stationery Office	2,73,445
2 Savings effected by recoveries of surplus stationery articles from various offices by the Inspectors of Stationery	12,884
3 Savings effected by reduction of sizes of Army forms, printing them on both sides of paper, dispensing with binding cloth and art canvas and changing of binding style to a cheaper one	90,340
4 Savings effected by restricting the issues of various civil standard forms	89,132
5 Savings effected by revision of civil standard forms	31,331
6 Savings effected by discontinuing the printing of table calendars	2,500
7 Savings effected by substitution of less expensive items in printing and binding of forms, publications and other miscellaneous items and by the use of old boards, covers, etc., furnished by the departments and substitution of cheaper styles of binding in the Government of India Presses	41,026
8 Savings effected by the use of assorted off cuts in the Government of India Presses	11,308
9 Savings effected in stores and Stationery, Forms, etc., effected in Government of India Presses and Central Publication Branch	7,535
10 Savings effected by the use of paper strips instead of envelopes in the Government of India Presses	747
Total	5,60,750

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

PAPER ECONOMY POINTS

ADHERE TO THESE POINTS ON YOUR TABLE AND SEE THAT EVERYBODY IN YOUR DEPARTMENT OBSERVES THE FOLLOWING POINTS

- 1 You are personally responsible for paper economy in your department. Remember, you submit the bill and follow your example.
- 2 Do not forget the back of any sheet you touch. Use both sides. Do not waste space on a sheet.
- 3 Use waste paper, blank or circular, in preparing notes and sheets.
- 4 Watch distribution of circular letters. Make the quantity distributed the most possible and do not overdo. Send your communication only to those who must have them.
- 5 Have a list of the number of copies necessary and distribute in a routine manner.
- 6 Have a list of the number of copies necessary and do not duplicate automatically. Check off printing in your copy record books. Printing is more expensive than writing on paper from the file.
- 7 Before giving a document or letter to a subordinate, give him the necessary instructions to a copyist or typist. Give him the number of copies and the date, e.g. "35-5 3 44".
- 8 Use carbon paper. Carbon paper is not idealized but for official correspondence, use the carbon side of paper in reserve typing on both sides.
- 9 When carbonable type is used, use the back of the carbon of your letters instead of one or two sheets.
- 10 Keep the office copy of copies of the back of official letters wherever possible.
- 11 Use the economy labels for all non-confidential letters and see that the flaps are not trimmed or sealed.
- 12 Use blotting sheets properly. See that your blotting sheet is not changed without your orders.
- 13 Attend to paper economy in each file you handle. Record invariably on each any violation of paper economy instructions so that others using the file will notice your comment.

SAVE PAPER

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I ask whether Government have succeeded in implementing the assurance given by Shri Akbar Hydari that Government will take active steps to speed up the delivery of raw materials and of coal to the local paper manufacturing mills in India in order that the position may be made easy?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: Certainly.

Mr. P. J. Griffiths: Do I understand that Government are prepared to consider further steps for effecting paper economy and to receive suggestions?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: As I have said, the question is constantly before Government and not only in one Department of Government but in all the various Departments.

Mr. P. J. Griffiths: Would Government consider the possibility of printing Assembly papers on both sides instead of on one side as at present?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: If there is matter enough for both sides.

PROTECTION TO WAR INDUSTRIES

145. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable the Commerce Member be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Government have, through the Commerce Member, since the beginning of the war, given repeated assurances to industries which have come into existence on account of and during the war, for tariff protection against cheap imports from abroad after the war?

(b) Apart from general assurances, have Government conveyed such assurances, in writing, to any concerns? If so, which are the concerns, and what is the nature of such assurances?

(c) Is it the intention of Government to hold on to this declared policy of protecting such industries, or as is apprehended in certain quarters to change it?

(d) What steps are Government taking to implement their assurances in this regard?

(e) What are the industries which would be covered within the scope of such assurances and on what principle is the selection being made?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) Government have assured some specified industries, the starting of which was considered essential under conditions created by the war, that they would be given such measure of protection against unfair competition from outside India after the war as may be necessary to enable them to continue their existence provided that they are conducted on sound business lines.

(b) No. The assurance was given to some specified industries not to any particular concern.

(c) There is no foundation for the alleged apprehension anywhere that Government proposed to change their policy.

(d) The time for implementing the assurances has not yet arrived.

(e) The Honourable Member's attention is invited to the speech made in this House on the 6th November, 1940, by the Honourable Sir Ramaswami Mudaliar, then Commerce Member. The industries, to which an assurance has been given through Resolutions issued by Government from 1939 to 1940, include production of bicarbonates, steel pipes and tubes, aluminium, calcium chloride, calcium carbide and starch.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I know, Sir, whether when the Honourable Member said industries which were considered essential, the test of essentiality is not the fact that Government made extensive purchases and in some cases they purchased the entire output of certain factories, and whether this test would not establish the essentiality of an industry?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: Sir, I have already answered that question.

Mr. Manu Subedar: What is the test of essentiality?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I have answered this question, namely, it is because they are considered essential for war purposes that Government give that encouragement and assurance.

Mr. Manu Subedar: The encouragement and assurance has taken the form of Government making purchases. Certain industries arose in this country under very great difficulties and I put it to the Honourable Member whether it is the policy of Government to permit industries, which have come into existence under very severe difficulties, to go down ultimately after the war, and to go down immediately by the cheap consumers' goods which they are putting on the market?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I am afraid my Honourable friend has put an involved question. If he wants a reply to his question regarding consumers' goods, I will answer separately. But quite apart from that, it is the policy of the Government of India to see that the industries, which have come into being whether for war purposes or for essential requirements in India, should continue to exist after the war.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: What are the specified industries which have received Government's assurance that they will be protected and looked after?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: They are industries which produce bicarbonates, steel pipes and tubes, aluminium, calcium, chloride, calcium carbide, and starch.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Are they exhaustive?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: They are exhaustive.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: In view of the fact that the Government of India have come to lean very much upon the handloom weaving industry for the supply of cloth during these war times and also in view of the fact that the handloom weaving industry has rendered a handsome service to the Government as well as the public in these years of crisis, have Government given any assurance and if they have not till now, will Government consider the advisability of giving an assurance to the handloom weaving industry that their interests in the post-war period will be adequately protected?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: If my Honourable friend would have the patience to wait for a reply in answer to his question on this subject, I think it would be better.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will it be favourable?

(No reply was given.)

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: Will the Honourable Member give an assurance to the House that the Regulation of Import Quotas has given any protection to the bicarbonate industry?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: As I have said in deciding the import quota Government have taken into consideration the quantum available in the country.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: I am in a position to state that it is to the contrary. I want an assurance from the Honourable Member on the matter.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I would like to know the facts.

Mr. President: (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) Next question.

EXAMINATION OF PASSENGERS' LUGGAGE AT VIRAMGAM DUE TO EXPORT CONTROL

146 ***Mr. Manu Subedar:** (a) Will the Honourable the Commerce Member be pleased to state how many cases of (i) detection, (ii) confiscation, and (iii) prosecution, separately, have occurred ever since the system of examination of passengers going from British India *via* Viramgam was instituted in connection with export control?

(b) Is it a fact that all the Indian States have been asked to adopt the export control and that they have adopted it?

(c) In view of the hardship to passengers do Government propose to discontinue the examination of passengers' luggage at Viramgam?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

(b) The maritime Indian States have been requested to adopt the British Indian export control regulations and have done so.

(c) While the Government of India fully realise the necessity for minimising the inconvenience caused to passengers, they regret that it is not possible to dispense with the examination of passengers' luggage for export control purposes.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I know whether Government have received representations and whether they have seen the views expressed in the public press that extraordinary hardships are being caused to the passengers who are going through Viramgam and that the new arrangements made are particularly humiliating and inconvenient?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: This examination of passengers' luggage at Viramgam for purely custom purposes is not a new thing, it has been going on for some years. I have seen one or two comments in the press, but unfortunately, from those comments I could not locate what the grievances are, but if my Honourable friend would give me a note on the subject I promise to look into the matter.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I ask whether Viramgam is not productive of any particular financial results and that it is causing irritation to an enormous mass of people who come in crowded trains these days, and very grave inconvenience to people who are travelling with families, with old men and women and children? May I know whether Government would not go into this question and see if they cannot relax the regulations altogether or at least improve the conveniences at the places where this examination is done?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I am quite prepared to look into the question of improving the conveniences. After all our intention is to ensure that there is no smuggling going on but I am not prepared to agree to the cessation of the examination because my Honourable friend knows that it is along the coast line not far distant that things are smuggled through.

"ASSOCIATION TRADING" PROPOSED IN THE UNITED KINGDOM

147. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Has the attention of the Honourable the Commerce Member been drawn to what is known as 'association trading' proposed in the United Kingdom by which competition of individual manufacturers would be eliminated and goods produced for export would be sold through an association of the trade as a whole?

(b) Have Government realised that this would result in jockeying the prices against India?

(c) What steps have Government taken to safeguard the interests of the Indian producer, and to enable him to receive competitive goods from the United Kingdom and other parts of the world?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) No.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Mr. Manu Subedar: I understand Government are now notifying all and sundry in this country to give particulars of the machinery which they want and they are saying that priority will not be given unless you book now. May I know what steps Government are taking in order to see that Indian industrialists do not purchase at inflated and heavy prices in the United Kingdom?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: The whole question is under consideration. Our Indian industrialists are not such fools as to be duped by any statement made from the other side.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Is it a fact that Government has sent out circulars to find what kind of machinery they require after the war and asking them to send their replies soon, otherwise they may be left out?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I think my friend knows that detailed enquires were made last November, if I mistake not and there were some inquiries at a later stage. That is quite a different thing to the question asked by my Honourable friend. That was on a governmental basis to know the total quantum of Indian requirements after the war so that the Government of India might help the industry in getting these things from abroad.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Whereas the United Kingdom is taking steps by what is known as the Association Trading to secure maximum prices for United Kingdom exports, are our Government taking steps to see that Indian purchases in the United Kingdom do not come at maximum inflated prices?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Haque: The whole question is under consideration.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is the Honourable Member also concerned about the possibility of obtaining better prices for agricultural commodities and semi-manufactured commodities made out of agricultural commodities when they are exported to other countries?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Haque: After the war is over?

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Yes.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Haque: I think it is too early to think about that but we are considering that question.

PURCHASES BY THE U. K. C. C. IN INDIA

148. Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable the Commerce Member be pleased to state the total volume of purchases by the U. K. C. C. in India for each year since they started work?

(b) Is it a fact that the U. K. C. C. purchases in India at controlled rates and sells at a heavy profit in outside markets?

(c) Have the Government of India represented to His Majesty's Government that a portion of the profits earned in this manner belonged to this country, and have they claimed any such portion?

(d) Do Government propose to represent to His Majesty's Government for a participation of these profits retrospectively and hereafter?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Haque: (a) Supplies valued at about 18 crores of Rupees have been purchased and despatched so far by the United Kingdom Commercial Corporation from India to various destinations.

(b) No. So. Of the total supplies despatched by the Corporation, about 90 per cent are for Russia and these are understood to be made on a net cost basis with no addition for overhead charges. The Government of India have no information that the Corporation has made heavy profits on other transactions.

(c) and (d). Do not arise.

Mr. Manu Subedar: If they have not made heavy profits, does my Honourable friend wish to convey that they have made no profits?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Haque: I was only answering his question whether they made heavy profits.

Mr. Manu Subedar: If they are not heavy profits they must have made some profits. Was it not the Government of India have not asked for a share?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Haque: We have tried to find out what the profits are.

Mr. T. S. Avaneswaram Chetty: What is the Government's conception of heavy profits?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Haque: That is an issue which every man sizes up according to his own light.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Is it not the fact that the United Kingdom Commercial Corporation took the sugar in this country and sold it at eight times the value in Persia?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Haque: I have no information.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: In view of the fact that the United Kingdom Commercial Corporation enjoys monopoly interests in exporting these things to Russia and other countries, they can make these profits at the cost of India. Isn't it in the interests of India that the Government of India should see that they get a portion of any legitimate profits that this company makes at the cost of India?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Haque: First of all, the United Kingdom Commercial Corporation except probably in the case of Russia is not a monopolist company.

Mr. Manu Subedar: In view of the fact that the United Kingdom Commercial Corporation has a monopoly, has the Government of India fixed any profit which they can amass to themselves?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: Except in the case of Russia the United Kingdom Commercial Corporation is one of the many purchasers abroad.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: May I ask the Honourable Member how the United Kingdom Commercial Corporation pays India for goods purchased for Russia?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: Well, I should ask for notice of this question because it is difficult to answer offhand.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Is it a fact that the Government of India have not called upon the United Kingdom Commercial Corporation to pay income-tax on profits which they earn in this country?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: That question does not arise after what I have said.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: Will it be possible to arrange with the United Kingdom Commercial Corporation that it pays India in dollars for goods purchased for Russia?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I have said that over this matter of the United Kingdom Commercial Corporation there have been several representations. As a result I tried to have a conference with the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce at Bombay. We had that conference. All the questions which the Chamber wanted me to examine I have had them examined and there is no substantial difference on the points raised by them between ourselves.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: They have been locked into?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: Yes, we have been able to satisfy the members of the Chamber on almost every point.

COAL POSITION

149. **Mr. Manu Subedar:** (a) Will the Honourable the Coal Member be pleased to state the figures of the exports of coal from India two years before the war and during each of the years after the outbreak of the war?

(b) Is it a fact that Indian coal was exported to Greece and other destinations in the Mediterranean?

(c) Is it a fact that foreign ships were supplied with Indian coal for their fuel requirements?

(d) How much coal was exported for account of the military in India during each of the years of the war?

(e) How much additional demand for coal has arisen in the country after the war, and for what purposes?

(f) What has been the increase in the consumption of coal by the railways?

(g) How many factories in India, since July last, have been compelled to close down on account of the coal shortage?

(h) Are there any factories or class of factories, which were asked to close down on the plea that they would not be given any more coal?

(i) Has the situation materially improved since the appointment of the Coal Controller? If so, in what way?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: The Honourable Member's attention is invited to the reply given by my Honourable colleague the Supply Member on the 6th instant to question No. 120.

SPREAD OF CHOLERA, INFLUENZA AND MALARIA IN BENGAL, BIHAR, ETC.

150. ***Prof. N. G. Ranga:** (a) Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to state how the Government proposes to account for the phenomenal rise in the virulence, spread and incidence of Cholera, Influenza and Malaria in Bengal, Bihar, Orissa, Vizagapatam and Malabar Districts of Madras since the beginning of this year?

(b) Is it not a fact that this increase in the incidence of these diseases is due to increasing mal-nutrition of the people?

†Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner having exhausted his quota.

(c) What steps have Government taken to rush adequate quantities of food, build up stores of food and distribute them among the starving and under-nourished people of these affected areas and thus minimise the sufferings and also untimely deaths of people?

(d) What steps do Government propose to prevent the further worsening of the situation, and also to prevent the recurrence of famine, epidemics due to malnutrition during 1945?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) and (b) It is not a fact that there has been an abnormal increase in 1944 in the incidence of the diseases mentioned in all the areas referred to. No information has been received of any undue prevalence of influenza in any of the areas. There has been a steady decline in the cholera incidence in Bengal since the beginning of the year and the figures are now and have for some months been, well below the normal. In Malabar there has been little cholera, the total number of deaths reported to date being about a hundred compared with over 25,000 in the first eight months of last year. There has been a severe cholera epidemic in North Bihar but in the last few weeks there has been a very considerable improvement and the reported mortality rate is now below the average. Cholera was abnormally prevalent in Orissa in the early part of the year but here again there has been considerable improvement. Malaria has been widely prevalent in epidemic form in recent months in Bengal and Bihar and parts of Orissa. As regards the cause of the incidence of these diseases their spread is favoured by malnutrition but epidemic conditions are also governed by other factors.

(c) and (d) There is no acute shortage of foodgrains in any part of Bengal, Bihar and Orissa. Shortages were reported from Malabar and Vizagapatnam and are being met by the allocation of special quotas. The Provincial Governments concerned have made arrangements for procuring foodgrains. The Government of India have also allotted foodgrains made available by surplus provinces or received from abroad under what is known as the Basic Plan and have endeavoured, in consultation with the War Transport Department, to secure that the surpluses so allotted are despatched to their destinations at a high priority and with the least possible delay. These measures will be continued during 1945. The total quantity already despatched to these areas is 590,572 tons and further allocations of over 300,000 tons have been made and await despatch.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it the idea of the Government by saying adequate quantities are being supplied to these people in order to prevent malnutrition and even starvation that the rations granted to the rural folk in Vizagapatnam district are to be reduced from 20 to 10 tolas whereas the town people are being granted 40 tolas per day per head?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I do not quite follow the question.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Isn't it a fact that in Vizagapatnam district during this month the rations granted to the people in the rural areas of the district have been reduced by 50 per cent, i.e. from 20 to 10 tolas, even while these 20 tolas is 50 per cent of the rations granted to the people in towns.

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I am sorry I cannot reply to the question. Rationing is not the business of my Department.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What steps do Government wish to take to satisfy themselves that the people in this area are not doomed to under-nourishment and semi-starvation and therefore mal-nutrition which favours the spread of these contagious diseases?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: Partly, Sir, we will try to grow more foodgrains there or near-by. As regards rationing and supply of food, I shall have to refer my Honourable friend to the appropriate Department.

Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali: Has the Honourable Member seen to-day's *Hindustan Times* which reports that there are 10,000 deaths in Gorakhpur district in the United Provinces and these are due mostly to bad nourishment that the people get?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I saw the paragraph in the newspaper to which my Honourable friend referred. The present question however deals with shortage of foodgrains in Bengal, Bihar, Orissa, Malabar and Vizagapatam.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Have the Government of India received any representation from the Bihar Government for supplies of foodgrains from the Central Storage?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I must again refer my Honourable friend to the Honourable the Food Member.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: In part (c) of the question, the Honourable Member who put it wanted to know about the adequacy of the quantities of food supplied to these suffering people. I should like to know from the Honourable Member who has replied to the question as to whether food other than foodgrains was rushed to those areas on behalf of Government?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I am afraid I cannot answer that but perhaps if it is raised in this current food debate the Food Member may be able to reply.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: I hope 'food' is not interpreted to mean only 'food grains' in the Government of India Secretariat.

(b) WRITTEN ANSWERS.

CONFERENCE FOR EQUITABLE PRICE FIXATION

151. ***Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to state if the Government are prepared to convene a conference of the representatives of Provincial Governments, Provincial Food Councils and peasants, especially foodgrain producers and millers in order to work out a more equitable system of price fixation so that only producers and consumers will be benefited?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: The Government of India do not consider it necessary to convene a conference of the type proposed by the Honourable Member. In formulating their price policy, the Government of India are advised by a Price Advisory Committee, which consists of the representatives of producers, consumers and the trade. Provincial Governments are also consulted.

GOVERNMENT CONTRIBUTION TO INDIAN LABOUR FEDERATION

152. ***Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state, in reference to the Labour Department's letter No. L 1882, dated the 3rd March 1912 in which Mr. M. N. Roy's scheme for propaganda on the Labour Front, costing Rs. 13,000 per mensem was approved—

(a) whether Government have satisfied themselves that the said moneys have been spent according to the scheme,

(b) whether they have received any reports from Mr. M. N. Roy or his Labour Organisation on the manner of their utilisation,

(c) whether Government have drawn any conclusions upon their work and reports if so, what they are, and whether they will be placed on the table of the House,

(d) whether there is any audit, and, if so, by whom,

(e) whether the audit report at least be placed on the table of the House;

(f) whether similar subsidies are being granted to any other individuals or organisations, if so, what they are, and what sums are being thus granted, and with what effects, and

(g) whether Government propose to continue these grants, and

(h) whether these grants are grants-in-aid, and, if so, on what basis?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) I would refer the Honourable Member to my reply to part (d) of question No. 31 put by Mr. Lalechand Navalrai.

(b) Yes.

(c) As already stated in reply to an earlier question, Government is satisfied that it has received adequate value for the money spent. The monthly grant is spent on the publication of printed literature, oral propaganda, visual publicity and the dissemination of reassuring news.

... and any comments made will appear in the Audit Report.

(f) No.

(g) Yes, it is the intention to continue for the present the grant made to the Federation.

(h) They are not grants-in-aid but represent payment for certain work carried out by the Association at Government's request

INTERNATIONAL SEAFARERS CHARTER AND INDIAN SEAMEN.

153. *Mr. K. S. Gupta: (a) Is the Honourable the Commerce Member aware of the existence of the International Seafarers Charter? If so, does he realize the gap between the conditions demanded by the Charter and those existing for Indian Seamen was enormous?

(b) Is the Government of India prepared to ratify the conventions and recommendations of the International Labour Organisation Conference together with the Philadelphia Declaration?

(c) What is the basic wage of the Indian dock hand today? What is the basic pay per month recommended by the Charter?

(d) Are Government aware that Indian seamen do not enjoy the same treatment as white seamen regarding war bonus? If so, how do the Government of India propose to make good the difference?

(e) Is it not a fact that Indian seamen are grossly under-paid as compared with White seamen?

(f) Is it not a fact that necessary training for the job is denied to Indian seamen? If so, when is this glaring injustice to be remedied?

(g) Are Government aware that there is a tacit agreement between shipping employers in Bombay and Calcutta to bar Indians who might prove as efficient as European seamen?

(h) Is it not a fact that the cost of living in India to-day is not far below that in Glasgow and Liverpool or London?

(i) Is it not a fact that Indian seamen perform most of their service outside India?

(j) Is it not a fact that the case of the Indian seamen is under active consideration? If so, how long is this going to last?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) The reply to the first part is in the negative. The second part does not arise.

(b) The Honourable Member is presumably referring to the recent twenty-sixth Session of the International Labour Conference held at Philadelphia. The Conference did not adopt any Conventions. As regards the Recommendations adopted, the Government of India have not yet come to any decision what action will be taken on any of them, except that the proceedings of the Conference will be placed on the table of the Legislature in its next Session.

As regards the "Declaration concerning the aims and purposes of the I. L. O." known as the Philadelphia Declaration or Charter, no question of ratification arises. The delegates of the Government of India voted in favour of the Declaration.

(c) I lay a statement on the table of the House giving the required information. The second part of the question does not arise in view of my reply to part (a).

(d) So far as the inequality in war bonus is concerned, the position is as stated by the Honourable Member. The question of an increase in war bonus is under negotiation between Shipowners and Indian Seamen's representatives.

(e) The wages of Indian Seamen are lower than those of corresponding ranks British Seamen.

(f) The Honourable Member is presumably referring to facilities for training aboard the ship. If this is so, Government have no information on the point.

(g) The Government of India are not aware of any such agreement.

(h) No.

(i) Yes.

(j) The Honourable Member is presumably referring to the wages of Indian seamen. His attention is invited to the answer to part (d).

Statement showing the present basic wages of Indian Deck hands at Calcutta and Bombay

Ratings.	Present basic wages (including 100 per cent increase on pre-war wages)	
	Calcutta.	Bombay
	Rs.	Rs.
Serangs	120	130
Seacanny	110	120
First Tindal	74	92
Second Tindal	60	70
Cassab	60	64
Winchman	56	68
Lascar (first grade)	50	60
Lascar (second grade)	44	56
	to 45	
Lascar (third grade)	35	50
	to 42	
Lascar's Boys	24	30
Bhandary	50	60
Bhandary Mate	20	40
	to 24	
Topass	44	40

PAUCITY OF MUSLIMS IN THE EASTERN ZONE OF CENTRAL PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT,

154. ***Khan Bahadur Shakh Fazl-i-Haq Piracha:** (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Minister be pleased to state if it is a fact that the Central Public Works Department has been bifurcated into Eastern and Western Zones?

(b) Is it a fact that there is under recruitment of Muslims in all grades of service in the Eastern Zone? If so, have Government taken any steps to redress this grievance? If so, what? If not, why not?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) Yes.

(b) In the case of Subordinates, there was an under recruitment of Muslims in the Eastern Zone and over recruitment of Muslims in the Western Zone, if these Zones are considered separate units. But there is no deficiency in the recruitment of Muslims in the Central Public Works Department considered as a whole.

In the case of Temporary Engineers, there was over recruitment of Muslims in the Western Zone, and under recruitment in the Eastern Zone due to the fact that suitable Muslim candidates were not available in that Zone at the time the recruitment was made. This deficiency in the Eastern Zone will be made good gradually as suitable Muslims become available.

There is no deficiency of Muslims in any other grade either in the Eastern or in the Western Zone.

ORDINANCE OF THE NATAL PROVINCIAL COUNCIL

155. ***Mr. K. S. Gupta:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Commonwealth Relations please state when the Ordinance of the Natal Provincial Council is to be passed?

(b) Are the Government of India aware of the provisions of the Ordinance?

(c) Are the Government of India satisfied that the provisions are not detrimental to the interests of Indians in Natal?

(d) Is it a fact that Town Boards and Town Councils in Natal do not contain any Indian representatives?

(e) Is it a fact that the Housing Board which has been formed in Natal is buying up all the property declared by the Licensing Board as not transferable by a member of one race to a member of another to the detriment of Indians holding properties?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: (a) The Honourable Member is presumably referring to the Residential Property Regulation Ordinance. The Ordinance passed its third reading in the Natal Provincial Council on the 27th November, 1944.

(b) Yes.

- (c) No
 (d) I have no accurate information but the number of Indian representatives on these bodies must be negligible, if not nil
 (e) As far as Government are aware a Housing Board with functions described by the Honourable Member is proposed to be set up under an Ordinance now before the Natal Provincial Council but none is functioning at present

REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES OF THE U K C C

156. *Mr. K. S. Gupta: (a) Will the Honourable the Commerce Member please state when the U K C C's activities were last reviewed? What are the results of such a review?

(b) Does the policy and attitude of the Government of India for the U K C C require any change in view of the enormous profits derived by the concern to the detriment of Indian interests?

(c) Is there any suggestion to the Government of India by the Indian Commercial representatives to start an Indian organization similar to the U K C C for carrying on India's export trade? If so, what has been the reply by the Government of India?

(d) Is there any possibility of starting such a concern to safeguard the business interests of India? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) The activities of the United Kingdom Commercial Corporation are reported to the Government of India every month. The review of such activities has at no time disclosed any breach of the statutory or other regulations in force.

(b) The Government of India have no information that the U K C C have derived enormous profits from their operations in India.

(c) Suggestions regarding the desirability of establishing a Government organization in India similar to the U K C C have been made from time to time but the consensus of opinion expressed by representatives of Indian Commerce and Industry who were invited to a conference in September last was not in favour of the creation of such an organisation.

(d) The Government of India do not consider that the creation of a Government trading agency at present will safeguard the business interests of India.

PLAN FOR BUILDING UP OF FOODGRAINS RESERVE

156A. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: (a) Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to state if Government have made any effective plan to build up a foodgrain reserve as recommended by the Foodgrains Committee of Dr Gregory, and with what success?

(b) Why have Government failed to mobilize and store adequate quantities of food in food deficit Provinces such as Madras, certain districts of Orissa, Bihar and Bengal during the last ten months?

(c) Is it the intention of the Government to leave Provinces to shift for themselves or to go to their rescue in time?

(d) Do Government propose to import adequate quantities of foodgrains from surplus Provinces such as Sind and Punjab and also from Canada and Australia into deficit Provinces such as Madras, Bombay? If so, what special steps are being taken to import foodgrains in time from other Provinces and from abroad into deficit Provinces and districts?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) Yes, but the supplies which have been made available to the Central Government have been little more than sufficient to meet immediate current requirements and to enable Provincial and State Governments to establish the necessary reserves against their own rationing and provisioning schemes.

(b) The Provincial Governments concerned have mobilised their resources and the Central Government have sent large quantities of food to the areas in question.

(c) It is the intention of the Government of India to forestall local shortages wherever possible.

(d) The answer to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. In so far as the second part of the question is concerned the Food Department allot

the surpluses declared by surplus Provinces to meet the needs of deficit provinces under what is known as the Basic Plan. The Department, in consultation with the War Transport Department endeavours to secure that the surpluses so allotted are despatched to their destinations at a high priority and with the least avoidable delay.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

RADIO SETS RECEIVED UNDER LEASE AND LEND

38. Mr. Lalchand Navalsai: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies be pleased to state how many radio sets the Government have received under the Lease and Lend during the period from 1st October, 1943 to date?

(b) How have they been distributed amongst the different provinces in India, and how is their cost to be met?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) None

(b) Does not arise

PAPER ANNUALLY SUPPLIED TO BUREAU OF PUBLIC INFORMATION, ETC.

39. Bhai Parmo Nand: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies please state the quantity of paper supplied in each year since 1941 to (i) the Bureau of Public Information, (ii) the Counter-Propaganda Directorate, (iii) Film Publicity, (iv) External Publicity and (v) Foreign Publicity?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: As the question concerns the Labour Department I am answering it. The information as far as readily available is given in the statement below —

Statement		
Indenter	Tonnage consumed during 1-4-1943 to 31-3-1944	Tonnage consumed during 1-4-1944 to 31-3-1944
(i) Bureau of Public Information	162	55
(ii) Counter Propaganda Directorate	50	23
(iii) Film Publicity	Not available.	1
(iv) External Publicity	18	Nd
(v) Foreign Publicity	99	17

NOTE —(1) The figures prior to 1st April 1944 in the case of Film Publicity and 1st April 43 in the case of the rest are not available. The figures relate to financial years.

(2) The figure shown against item No (iv) above represents the consumption by the British Ministry of Information.

(3) The figures against items (iii) and (v) are in respect of the consumption of "Information line of India" and "Publicity Officer (Foreign)", respectively.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE ADVISORY BOARD OF ARCHAEOLOGY

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) I have to inform the No Assembly that up to 12 Noon on Friday, the 3rd November, 1944, the time fixed for receiving nominations for the Advisory Board of Archaeology in India, three nominations were received. Subsequently one candidate withdrew his candidature. As the number of remaining candidates is equal to the number of vacancies, I declare the following Members to be duly elected (1) Dr P N Banerjee, (2) Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan.

THE PUBLIC DEBT (CENTRAL GOVERNMENT) BILL

PRESENTATION OF THE REPORT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman (Finance Member) Sir, I present the report of the Select Committee on the Public Debt (Central Government) Bill together with the Bill as amended by the Select Committee.

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SES IN WHICH THE LOWEST TENDERS HAVE NOT BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR INDIA

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque (Member for Commerce and Industries and Civil Supplies). Sir, I lay on the table four statements furnished by the High Commissioner for India, London, showing all cases in which the lowest tenders have not been accepted by him in purchasing stores for the Government of India during the half years ended 31st December 1941, 30th June 1942, 31st December 1942 and 30th June 1943.

HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR INDIA, INDIA STORE DEPARTMENT

ABSTRACT of Cases in which tenders for Stores demanded by the Central Government, other than the lowest complying with the technical description of the goods demanded, were accepted on the grounds of superior quality, superior trustworthiness of the firm tendering, greater facility of inspection, quicker delivery, etc

HALF YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER 1941.

PART A — Cases in which lower foreign tenders, with divergent British tender, for foreign goods, have been set aside wholly or partially in favour of British tenders — Nil

PART B — Cases in which the discrimination is between British firms only

Stores ordered	Quantity	Contract No	Name of Contractor	Amount of Contract	Lowest tender not accepted	Reason for acceptance
	Sq yds.			£ s d.	£ s d	
Glass Substitute on fabric base.	£0,000	A 1150/455/27-6-41	Dr. Day Chromax Ltd.	5,240 17 7		50,000 yds of glass substitute on a fabric base were required very urgently. Two tenders only offered suitable material
Ditto	20,000	A 1151/458/27-6-41	British Celanese, Ltd	1,953 6 8		20,000 yards were ordered from the lowest who offered to complete delivery in 12 weeks and to deliver at the rate of 10,000 yards every 3 weeks
				7,199 4 3 (British)		The remainder was ordered from the next tenderer who offered delivery in 3 weeks
Logstore, Coignet, Stearns, one length of 28' in tubes, size 1-4	20,076	A 1822/1976/3-9-41	Allen & Hanburys, Ltd	451 14 2 plus packing & delivery of 6 at cost (British)	250 19 0 (British)	The stores were very urgently required to replace stores lost at sea by enemy action. The lowest tenderer offered delivery in 7-15 months. The next lowest offered delivery in 4-7 months. The order was therefore placed with the third lowest tenderer who offered delivery in 4-8 weeks

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Ligatures, Catgut, Sterilised, one length of 5 ft in tubes size 00, 0, 1, 2, 3.	Nos 83,715 A 1823/1976/3-9-41	Johnson & Johnson (Great Britain), Ltd	2,000 13 9 (British).	1,857 12 2 (British).	The stores were very urgently required to replace stores lost at sea by enemy action. The lowest tenderer offered delivery in 8-14 months. The order was therefore placed with the next lowest tenderer, who offered delivery in 13 weeks.
Beatings, Roller Journal metric size 40x90x23 mm.	Nos 24 A 2025/2516/1-10-41	The Hoffman Manufacturing Co., Ltd.	10 10 7 (British)	8 18 0 (British)	The lowest tenderer offered delivery in 18-20 weeks. The Indent asked for supply as soon as possible and the order was therefore placed with the next lowest tenderer who offered delivery in 2-3 weeks.
Ligatures, Catgut, Sterilised, plain, non-boilable, medium hard, boxes of 12 glass capsules each containing 1 length of 5 ft. sizes 1 to 5, 1/0, 2/0, 3/0, 5/0.	Boxes 2,188 A 2051/3167/4-10-41	Johnson & Johnson (Great Britain), Ltd	750 9 8 (British)	574 7 0 (British)	The ligatures were required very urgently in replacement of stores lost at sea by enemy action. The lowest tenderer offered delivery in 6-8 months. The order was therefore placed with the next tenderer who offered delivery in 7-15 weeks.
Ligatures, Catgut, Sterilised, plain non-boilable, medium hard, boxes of 12 glass capsules each containing 1 length of 5 ft. sizes 5 and 6/0.	Boxes 502 A 2052/3167/4-10-41	Allen & Hanbury, Ltd	215 10 2 plus delivery and f o b at cost (British)	131 15 6 (British)	The ligatures were required very urgently in replacement of ligatures lost at sea by enemy action. The lowest tenderer offered delivery in 6-8 months. The order was therefore placed with the next tenderer who offered delivery in 8-12 weeks.
Space parts 4 x Carden Lloyd Link Tents, Mark IV-A. Fan Spanner	Nos 12 A 2339/1574/7-11-41	R T Shelley, Ltd	9 5 0 (British)	4 10 0 (British)	The lower tenderer offered delivery in 30 weeks. As the spanners were required urgently, the order was placed with the higher tenderer who offered very early delivery.
Single Ended Box Spanner for Bevel Shaft Nut 1-1/8" Whitworth.	Nos 12				

Stores ordered.	Quantity	Contract No	Name of Contractor	Amount of Contract	Lowest tender not accepted	Reason for acceptance
Ligatures, Catgut, one length of 28' in a glass tube 1—Sizes 1, 2 & 3	Tubes 18,248	A 2461/3920/21-11-41	G F. Merson, Ltd.	£ 266 2 ¾ d. 4 (British).	£ 228 0 0 d. 0 (British)	The ligatures were very urgently required to replace stores lost at sea by enemy action. The lowest tenderer offered two alternatives viz.—in envelopes for delivery in 6 months, or in tubes at a higher price for delivery in 1½-2 weeks. In view of the urgency the latter was accepted.
Ligatures, Catgut, sterilised, one length of 5 ft. in a glass tube.	Tubes 9,708	A 2584/3920/1-12-41	Armour & Co., Ltd.	£ 293 13 4 d. 4 (British)	£ 212 7 3 d. 0 (British)	The ligatures were very urgently required to replace stores lost at sea by enemy action. The lowest tenderer offered delivery in 26 weeks. The order was therefore placed with a higher tenderer who offered delivery in 1 week.
Sulphaphenazone, B. P. Amps.	21,500	A 2603/4666/2-12-41	Boots Pure Drug, Co., Ltd	£ 798 17 6 d. 0 (British)	£ 483 6 8 d. 0 (British).	The stores were very urgently required to replace stores lost at sea by enemy action. The lowest tenderer offered delivery to commence in March and complete in Nov 1942. The order was therefore placed with the next tenderer who offered delivery in 2 months.
Knives, Band, 20' x 1" No. 1 with plain edge, for "Crescent" Band Knife-cutting machines.	240	A 2637/4403/4-12-41	Aublet, Homar & Co	£ 117 0 0 d. 0 (British)	£ 114 0 0 d. 0 (British)	The knives were very urgently required to replace stores lost at sea by enemy action. The lowest tenderer offered delivery in 12 weeks. The higher tenderer offered delivery of 240

knives in 4-6 weeks, and the order for this quantity was therefore placed with him. The remaining 48 knives were ordered from the lower tenderer.

The stores were very urgently required to replace stores lost at sea by enemy action. The delivery offered by the lowest tenderer was indefinite and the order was therefore placed with the next lowest tenderer who offered delivery in 7 days.

The soda phosphas was required very urgently to replace material lost by enemy action, and in order to expedite supply the order was divided between the two tenderers.

The lowest tenderer offered delivery in 10 weeks. As the tubing was required in India as early as possible the order was placed with the next lowest tenderer who offered delivery in 2-3 weeks.

Chemical Apparatus parts

A. 2745/4477/12-12-41 John Weiss & Sons, Ltd.

5 3 4
(British)3 5 0
(British)

Soda Phosphas Acidus B.

Cwts. 17 Addition A. 2383/4250/
13-11-41.Burgoyne Burbidges &
Co., Ltd.
Thomas Tyler & Co., Ltd.103 14 0
(British).
49 0 0
(British)146 8 0
(British)
..

Ditto

A. 2711/4250/10-12-41

152 14 0

Copper tubing

Cwts. 219 A. 2894/4164/27-12-41 Chas Clifford & Son, Ltd.

1,457 14 0
(British).1,452 8 11
(British)

Part C—Cases in which the discrimination is between foreign firms only—Nil.
Part D—Cases in which British tenders were set aside in favour of foreign tenders—Nil

HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR INDIA, INDIA STORE DEPARTMENT

ABSTRACT OF CASES in which tenders for Stores demanded by the Central Government, other than the lowest complying with the technical description of the goods demanded were accepted on the grounds of superior quality, superior trade workmanship of the firm tendering, greater facility of inspection, quicker delivery, etc

HALF YEAR ENDING 30TH JUNE 1942

PART A.—Cases in which lower foreign tenders, including British tenders, for foreign made goods, have been set aside wholly or partially in favour of British tenders.—Nil
PART B.—Cases in which the discrimination is between British firms only.

Stores ordered.	Quantity	Contract No	Name of Contractor	Amount of Contract	Lowest tender not accepted;	Reason for acceptance
Circuit breakers outdoor Trip Coils Three Phase Contacts	10 Nos. 1 set 2 sets.	A 2935/5072/1-1-42	Metropolitan-Vickers Electrical Export Co., Ltd	£ 544 10 0 s d (British)	£ 522 0 0 s d (British)	The lowest tenderer offered delivery in 18-22 weeks. The stores were required in India by April-May 1942 and the order was therefore placed with the next tenderer, who offered delivery in 7-11 weeks. The lower tenderer offered delivery in 10/40 weeks. As the stores were very urgently required in India, the order was placed with the higher tenderer who offered delivery in 8/10 weeks.
Tools, Measuring	168 pairs	A 2978/5314/3-1-42	Coventry Gauge & Tool Co., Ltd.	232 12 6	209 8 4	The lower tenderer offered delivery in 10/40 weeks. As the stores were very urgently required in India, the order was placed with the higher tenderer who offered delivery in 8/10 weeks.
Reagents (various)		A 3187/4453/17-1-42	Hopkin & Williams, Ltd	43 8 9 (British)	40 15 7 (British)	The stores were very urgently required in India to replace stores lost at sea by enemy action. The lower tenderer offered delivery in about 4 months, and the order was therefore placed with the higher tenderer who offered delivery in 4 weeks.
Cutters, Conocave Speed Steel,	36 Nos.	A 3233/5706/21-1-42	Thos Firth & John Brown Ltd.	172 16 0 (British)	158 8 0 (British)	The stores were required in India by April 1942. The lowest tenderer offered delivery in 36 "working weeks from receipt of the Export Licence number" and "subject to Govern-

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quotation was also subject to increase. The order was therefore placed with the next lowest tenderer who offered delivery in 5-6 months.

The indent asked for supply in India of part by March and the balance by June 1942. The lowest tenderer offered delivery in 10-12 weeks, and the order was therefore placed with the next equal lowest tenderer who offered delivery in 1 week

The lower tenderer offered delivery in 4 months. The tubing was required in India as early as possible in view of the heavy costs programme, and the order therefore placed with the higher tenderer who offered delivery in 2-3 weeks

The Indent which was originally placed in America and was subsequently repatriated to this country, asked for supply as early as possible the lowest tenderer offered delivery in 18-20 weeks, and the order was therefore placed with the next lowest tenderer who offered delivery in 2 weeks

The stores were urgently required at Site in India by 15th April 1942. The lowest tenderer offered delivery in 8 weeks and the order was therefore placed with the next lowest tenderer who offered delivery in 1 week

10 2 8
(British)

26 5 0
(British)
Plus postage
at cost

John Elsworth & Sons,
(Sheffield), Ltd

A 3742/621/23-2-42

Rft 450

Saws, Band, for "Doall" machine. Set of teeth .043" -
1/4" width by 18 teeth
per inch
3/16 width by 18 teeth
per inch.

16 5 0
(British)

19 15 10
(British)

J G Ingram & Son, Ltd.

A 3748/6281/23-2-42

Rft 100
100

Tubing, India Rubber -
3/8" wall x 1 1/4" bore
3/8" wall x 1" bore

152 0 0
(British)

157 0 0
(British)

The Low Moor Best Yorkshire Iron, Ltd.

A 3787/6083/26-2-42

4 tons

Wrought Iron round bars
1 1/2" round

354 5 6

358 10 4
(British)

British Insulated Cables, Ltd

A 3801/6021/26-2-42

8800 lbs

Wire, Electric. Copper, hard drawn, High Conductivity, bare stranded
Size, 7, stroke. 183

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Stores ordered	Quantity	Contract No	Name of Contractor	Amount of Contract	Lowest tender not accepted	Reason for acceptance
Saws, Band for Thed machine — Teeth 6 per c m Width 8 m.m.	550 Rft	A 3936/6141/5.3-42	E H Jones (machine Tools) Ltd	£. s. d. 15 0 0 (British)	£. s. d. 10 8 6 (British)	The Indent asked for supply in India of part by March and balance by June 1942. The lower tendered offered delivery in 10-12 weeks, and the order was therefore placed with the higher tenderer who offered delivery ex-stock.
Ligatures, Catgut, Tubes of 28" size 1	6600 tubes	A. 3984 6663/9.3-42	Armour & Co., Ltd	138 7 10 (British)		The ligatures were required in India very urgently in replacement of stores lost at sea by enemy action. The lowest tenderer offered delivery in 3 months, and the order was therefore placed with a higher tenderer who offered delivery in 14 weeks.
Steel, Mild, Hexagon, Black 3/8" Nut (1 100 across flats) in 12 to 16 ft lengths	4 tons	A 4022/8001/11.3-42	Colville, Ltd	81 1 0	77 1 0	This Indent, which was originally placed in America and was subsequently repatriated to this country, asked for supply as early as possible. The lower tenderer offered delivery in 12 weeks, and the order was therefore placed with the higher tenderer who offered delivery in 4-5 weeks.
Flooding carriage diameter measuring machines 0-4"	Noe 2	A 4251/5973/26.3-42	Conventry Gauge & Tool Co., Ltd	133 0 0 plus N P L fasc.	120 0 0 (British)	The Indent asked for supply in India by 15th March 1942. The lowest tenderer offered delivery in 10 weeks and the order was therefore placed with a higher tenderer who offered delivery in approx 4 weeks.

Legature Cast-iron Stern — 5 ft strand in a glass tube — Size 3	D 363/7339/20 4 42	Cuxson Gervard & Co Ltd Tubes 34290 G F Merson Ltd Tubes 42000	832 14 2 1050 0 0 1882 14 0	1883 10 0 (British) 106 17 6 (British)	The Legatures were very urgently required in India and to ex- pedite supply the order was divided between the two lowest tenders.
Rods, Coupling — Right hand — Left hand	B 646/7220/5 5 42	North British Locomo- tive Co Ltd	145 0 0 (British)	106 17 6 (British)	The Indent which was originally placed in America and was subsequently repatriated to this country asked for supply as early as possible. The lowest tenderer offered deli- very in 36 weeks and the order was therefore placed with a higher tenderer who offered delivery in 12 weeks.
Lorain, 9 8" in box with stand	B 839/315 5 42	Hall Bros	658 2 6 (British)	600 0 0 (Approx) (British)	The lower tenderer offered deli- very towards the end of 1942 The Indent requested the stores to be in India by June 1942 and the order was there- fore placed with the higher tenderer who offered delivery in 5 weeks
Regulus Metal Valves — 2" bore 1" bore	B 994/7311/23 5 42	Haughtons Metal Co Ltd	342 15 0 (British)	243 10 0 (British)	The lowest suitable tenderer offered delivery in 6 months The stores were required at site in India by 1st September 1942 and the order was there- fore placed with the higher tenderer who offered delivery in 9 10 weeks
Legature Cast-iron Stern — Length of 6 ft in tubes — Size 2 Size 3	B 1014/WF 1976/29 6 42	G S Merson Ltd	109 10 0 (British)	106 9 2 (British)	The lowest tenderer offered deli- very by approx mid Septem- ber 1942. The stores were urgently required in India and the order was therefore placed with a higher tenderer who offered delivery in 7/10 days.
Pneumatic Grinders	B 1031/241/1 6 42	Holman Bros Ltd	113 8 0 (British)	91 16 0 (British)	The lowest tenderer offered deli- very in 20 24 weeks. As the stores were required in India by June 1942 the order was placed with a higher tenderer who offered delivery in 6 weeks

Stores Ordered	Quantity	Contract No.	Name of Contractor	Amount of Contract	Lowest tender not accepted	Reasons for acceptance
Oil Stones (Various)	Nos 419	B. 1073/229/3-6-42	The Carborandum, Co., Ltd	£ 30 16 7 (British)	£ 26 19 10 (British)	The lowest tenderer offered delivery in approx 7 months. The stores were required in India by the end of July 1942, and the order was therefore placed with the next lowest tenderer who offered delivery in about 10-12 weeks.
Bolts and Nuts, Mild Steel, Bright	Nos 6400	B 1359/521/23-6-42	Stoll Parts, Ltd	42 4 6 (British)	38 5 11 (British)	The lowest tenderer could not offer a delivery date. As this stores were required in India by 30th June 1942, the order was placed with a higher tenderer who offered the store ready for inspection in about 10 weeks.
Surface table 6' x 3' marking out, on four legs, marked in 6" squares. Allowable variation -001" per foot.	Nos 1	B 1390/1157/22-5-42	W Notting, Ltd	41 0 0 (British)	37 0 0 (British)	The lowest tenderer offered delivery in 8-10 weeks. The surface table was required at site in India by October 1942 and the order was therefore placed with the next tenderer who offered a table of superior design for delivery in 5 weeks.
Steel Spring Flat:- 1-3/8" x 1/16" 1-4/8" x 1/16" 2-1/8" x 5/64"	1 cwt 3 cwt 4 cwt.	B. 1608/124/30-6-42	The Rotherham Steel Strip, Co., Ltd	15 13 6 (British)	12 10 2 (British)	The lower tenderer offered delivery in 26 weeks. As the stores were required in India from March to September 1942, the order was placed with the higher tenderer who offered delivery in 6-8 weeks.

Part C.—Cases in which the discrimination is between foreign firms only.—N/d
 Part D.—Cases in which British tenders were set aside in favour of foreign tenders.—N/d

HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR INDIA, INDIA STORE DEPARTMENT

Abstract of Cases in which tenders for Stores demanded by the Central Government, other than the lowest complying with the technical description of the goods demanded were accepted on the grounds of superior quality, superior trustworthiness of the firm tendering greater facility of inspection, quicker delivery, etc.

HALF YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1942

PART A—Cases in which lower foreign tenders, including British tenders, for foreign made goods, have been set aside wholly or partially in favour of British tenders—Nil.
PART B—Cases in which the discrimination is between British firms only

Stores ordered	Quantity	Contract No.	Name of contractor	Amount of Contract	Lowest Tender not accepted	Reasons for acceptance
Sheet Spring Steel — Sheets 4' X 2'.	Ton 1	B 1513/950/17-42	William Jessop & Sons, Ltd	£ 66 10 0 (British)	£ 55 10 0 (British)	The lowest tender offered delivery in 12 weeks (not guaranteed). As half the quantity of the stores was required in India by June 1942, the order was placed with the higher tenderer who offered delivery in 6-8 weeks.
Flannel, White Best Roller, Rot-proof, 38" wide, 144 ozs. per yard.	Yards 160	B 1646/123/8-7-42	Hugh Shaw, Ltd	£ 32 18 1 (British)	£ 30 9 4 (British)	The lowest tenderer offered delivery in 12-13 weeks. As the stores were required in India as soon as possible after the 1st April 1942, and supply was expedited by telegram the order was placed with the next lowest tenderer who offered delivery in 4 weeks.
Paper, printing Art. imitation, Double Crown, 20" X 30" 45 lbs.	Reams, 50	B 1752/367/14-7-42	Alex Cowan & Sons, Ltd	£ 73 15 0 (British)	£ 70 6 3 (British)	The paper was very urgently required to replace stores lost at sea by enemy action. The lowest tenderer could not offer a definite delivery date, and the order was therefore placed with the next lowest tenderer who offered delivery in 3-4 weeks.

STATEMENTS LAID ON THE TABLE

[7TH Nov 1944]

Stores ordered	Quantity	Contract No.	Name of contractor	Amount of Contract	Lowest Tender not accepted	Reasons for acceptance
Bearings, Ball Double Row, Journal, Self align mg, 2" bore etc.	Nos 9	B 1810 1480 20 7 42	Ransome & Marles Bearing Co., Ltd	£ 7 7 9 (British)	£ 8 1 (British)	The lowest tenderer offered delivery approx end of October 1942. The stores were required in India by September 1942, and the order was therefore placed with the highest tenderer who offered delivery in 4 5 weeks
Bailing, Draining Leasing ('Alligator' type)	R ft 304 960 480 72	B 1863 4634/23 7 44	Automatic Pressings, Ltd	59 9 6 (British)	48 5 3 (British)	The baling was urgently required in India to replace stores lost at sea by enemy action. The lowest tenderer offered delivery in 12 16 weeks and the order was therefore placed with the higher tenderer who offered delivery in 8 weeks
Glasses, Straight for gauge column Cook — length — 10 1/2" 8 1/2" 10 1/2" 11 1/2"	Nos 8000 9000 6000 1500	B 1910 1646/27 7 42 B 1911/1643 27 7 42	John Moner off Ltd (Half quantities) S & C Bishop & Co., Ltd (Half quantities)	216 15 9 235 18 9 452 14 6 (British)	433 11 5 (British)	The stores were required in India by 31st July 1942 and in order to expedite supply the order was divided between the two tenderers
Splice-board cable 23 wire 9 1/2 lbs per mile	Yds 1530	B 1965/1923 30 7 42	Somerset Bros & Co Ltd	113 10 0 (British)	97 0 0 (British)	The lowest tenderer offered delivery in 12 months after receipt of all licences. The stores were urgently required in India, and the order was therefore placed with the next lowest tenderer who offered delivery in 12 14 weeks

STATEMENTS LAD ON THE TABLE

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Lamps, Electric, Discharge, Nos. 500 Fluorescent, etc 2—	B. 2163/2061/19-8-42	The Edison Swan Electric Co., Ltd. (300 lamps).	485 0 0 728 2 6	The lowest tenderer could not commence delivery for 20 weeks. As the stores were required in India by October 1942, the order was divided between the two higher tenderers, in order to expedite supply.
220 volts, 400 watts.	B. 2154/2061/19-8-42	The General Electric Co. Ltd (300 lamps)	1,213 2 6 (British)	1,097 18 4 (British)
Rings, winding, steel 3' 3" for lyro fastening.	B. 2366/1675/4-9-42	The Glasgow Ry. Engineering Co., Ltd.	305 5 0 (British)	178 15 0 (British)
Grinders Electric, Portable hand ball bearings.	B. 2684/2470/1-10-42	S Wolf & Co., Ltd (10 grinders, 60 spare wheels)	214 7 7 265 4 0	The lower tenderer was unable to commence delivery before February 1943. Ten machines and seventy stones were required in India by December 1942. This urgent portion of the demand was therefore ordered from Van Dorn Electric Tools who offered delivery in 6 weeks. The balance was allotted to Wolf & Co., Ltd.
Spare wheels	B. 2685/2470/1-10-42	Van Dorn Electric Tools (10 grinders, 70 spare wheels)	479 11 7 (British)	436 3 0 (British)
Razors, with nickel silver scales, in cardboard case.	B. 3220/2802/4-11-42	Joseph Rodgers & Sons, Ltd.	300 0 0 (British)	292 10 0 (British)

In view of the long time for delivery offered by the lower tenderer, who offered 100 per week commencing at the end of March 1942 the order was placed with the higher tenderer who offered delivery at the rate of 50 dozen per month commencing at the end of January 1943

Stores ordered	Quantity	Contract No.	Name of contractor	Amount of Contract	Lowest tender not accepted	Reasons for acceptance
				£ s d	£ s d	
Mild Steel Pots 18½" dia by 18" depth — Calorised . . . Nos 40 Uncalorised . . . 20		B 3283/3417/6-11-42	Imperial Chemical Industries, Ltd	756 12 0 (British)	690 0 0 (British)	The lowest tenderer offered delivery in 23-30 weeks. As the stores were required in India by Nov '42, the order was placed with the higher tenderer who offered delivery of the uncalorised pots in 4-6 weeks, 10 calorised pots immediately and the balance within 6 weeks.
Knives, Spare, for paper cutting machine	Nos 6	B 3304/3113/6-11-42	F. Mountford & Sons, Ltd.	29 4 0 (British)	23 8 0 (British)	The lowest tenderer offered delivery in 12-16 weeks. As the early supply of the stores had been specially requested by the indentor, the order was placed with the next lowest tenderer who offered delivery in 4-6 weeks.
Gaskets, Asbestos, Wire woven, 4-11/16" sq	Nos 5000	B 3317/3287/10-11-42	Babcock & Wilcox, Ltd.	105 0 0 (British)	88 7 6 (British)	The stores were urgently required in India to replace stores lost at sea by enemy action. The lowest tenderer offered delivery in 8-10 weeks, and the order was therefore placed with the higher tenderer who offered delivery from stock.
Bulbs, hooded, 3 & 6 volts for cystoscopes — (a) Adult's size Gauge CS/2. Nos 500 (b) Child's size Gauge CS/2. 500		B 3324/3287/25-11-42	James L. Hattrick & Co., (London), Ltd	210 0 0 plus packing, postage & men	175 0 0 plus postage & packing at cost	The indent requires the stores in India in instalments complete by Dec 43. The lowest tenderer already has a much larger contract for similar stores, on which he is unable to maintain his promised rate of delivery and which is likely to take most of 1943 to complete. On the recommendation

of the Medical Adviser to the Secretary of State the new contract was placed with the next lowest tenderer in order to ensure complete delivery of outstanding requirements in the time specified.

The lower tenderer offered delivery in 12-26 weeks. As the scores were required in India in April to Sept '42, the order was placed with the higher tenderer who offered delivery in 8-16 weeks.

25 17 3
(British)

The Hoffmann Manufacturing Co., Ltd

B 3951/907/30-12-42

Ball Bearings (Various)

Part C—Cases in which the discrimination is between foreign firms only—N^o 4
Part D—Cases in which British tenders were set aside in favour of foreign tenders—N^o 4

HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR INDIA, INDIA STORE DEPARTMENT

ABSTRACT OF CASES in which tenders for Stores demanded by the Central Government, other than the lowest complying with the technical description of the goods demanded, were accepted on the grounds of superior quality, superior trustworthiness of the firm tendering, greater facility of inspection, quicker delivery, &c

HALF YEAR ENDING 30TH JUNE 1943.

PART A—Cases in which lower foreign tenders, including British tenders, for foreign-made goods, have been set aside wholly or partially in favour of British tenders—N^o 1
PART B—Cases in which the discrimination is between British firms only

Stores Ordered	Quantity	Contract number	Name of Contractor	Amount of Contract	Lowest tender not accepted	Reasons for acceptance
				£ s d	£ s d	
Bridge-Meeger Testing Set, 1000 vols.	No 1	B 4079/4757/11-1-43	Evered & Vignoles, Ltd.	50 11 3 (British)	23 5 9 (British)	The indent required the stores at site in India by March, '43. As the lower tenderer offered delivery in 10-12 months, the order was placed with the higher tenderer, who offered delivery in 6 months.

Stores Ordered	Quantity	Contract No.	Name of Contractor	Amount of Contract	Lowest tender not accepted	Reasons for acceptance
Holts, Ball Bearing, Spur Gears, etc.	Nos 100	B 4378/4987/30 1 43	The Yale & Townes Mann facturing Co	£ s d 1,200 0 0 (British)	£ s d 1,100 0 0 (British)	The lowest suitable tenderer offered to commence delivery in 16 weeks at the rate of 15 20 per week. The indent required half the quantity of stores at site in India by March 1943, and the order was therefore placed with the next lowest tenderer who offered delivery in 10 12 weeks, with part earlier.
Screws (various—sizes and quantities)	—	B 4512/4933/13 2 43	Unbrako Socket Screw, Co., Ltd	£ s d 53 12 6 (British)	43 4 9 Plus keys (British)	The lowest tenderer could not promise a date for delivery as the stores would be manufactured in U S A. The next lowest tenderer offered part delivery from stock and completion in 12 14 weeks. The remaining tenderer was only 2s 8d higher than the second lowest tenderer and offered complete delivery in 8 weeks. As part of the requirements were specified to reach India by the 1st April 1943, the order was placed with the last mentioned tenderer.
Gauges, Pressure, Com-pound, 7" dia.	Nos 13	B 4576/4992/23 2 43	Payne & Griffiths, Ltd	£ s d 22 16 3 (British)	13 7 10 (British)	The lowest tenderer offered delivery in 13 14 weeks. The next lowest offered delivery in 30 weeks. As the stores were required at site in India by February 1943, the order was placed with the third lowest tenderer who offered delivery in 8 weeks.

STATEMENTS LAID ON THE TABLE

Copper Tanks, cut 3/8", 1/2", 19 856 lbs. B 4588/53.5/24 2 43 and 5/8" B 4589/53.25/24 2 43	Hall & Rose Ltd (9923 lbs.) Harrison & Cook (9928 lbs.)	364 16 7 367 15 -	The Copper tanks were required in India by March 1943 and to expedite supply the order was divided between the two tenders
Motor Generator Sets Nos 2 C 132/6 3 7 4 43	The Electric Construction Co Ltd	11.9 13 - 673 8 0 (British) (British)	The lowest tenderer offered delivery in 23 1/2 weeks. As the stores were required in India as soon as possible, the order was placed with the most lowest tenderer who offered delivery in 20 weeks.
Stearns, Portable, etc Nos 500 C 690/304/22 0 43	Surgical Equipment Supplies Ltd	706 0 0 (British)	The lowest tenderer offered to commence delivery in 28 weeks and to complete in 38 weeks. The tenderer required the stores in India by 30th April 1943 and the order was therefore placed with the next lowest tenderer who offered delivery in 6 weeks.
Copper Wire double rayon covered 800 lbs C 833/73.2/31 5 43	110 London Electric Wire Co and Smiths Ltd	109 0 10 (British)	The lowest tenderer offered delivery in 6 months and the next lowest in 20 2 1/2 weeks. As the stores were required very urgently and were in replacement of those lost at sea by enemy action the order was placed with the highest tenderer who offered delivery in 12 weeks.

Part C—Cases in which the discrimination is between foreign firms only.—N4

Part D—Cases in which British tenders were set aside in favour of foreign tenders.—V4

THE FACTORIES (SECOND AMENDMENT) BILL—contd.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) The House will now proceed with the further consideration of the following motion moved by the Honourable Dr B R Ambedkar on Wednesday, the 1st November, 1944, namely —

“That the Bill further to amend the Factories Act 1934 (Second Amendment), be referred to a Select Committee consisting of Nawab Siddique Ali Khan, Khan Bahadur Shaikh Faez-i-Haq Piracha, Mr R R Gupta, Mr. A C Inskip, Sir Vithal N Chandavarkar, Rao Bahadur N Siva Raj, Mr N M Joshi, Mr D S Joshi, and the mover and that the number of members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the Committee shall be five.

Mr. N. M. Joshi (Nominated Non-Official) The first part of the Bill provides compensatory days of rest when the Provincial Governments exempt certain factories from the operation of section 33 of the Factories Act, making a weekly day of rest obligatory. This removes one of the defects of the present Factory Act and therefore the Amendment is a welcome one.

Sir, the second part of the Bill deals with the principle that human beings after continuous work for a long period, say for a year, require certain continuous holidays, so that their health may be recouped and efficiency revived. I therefore congratulate the Honourable the Labour Member for having proposed to apply that principle of a continuous holiday to the working classes in this country. But, Sir, unfortunately the Honourable Member restricts the application of this principle only to workers working in factories. There are other industries in which workers work for a continuous period and they work very hard and therefore are equally entitled to a continuous holiday as the workers in the factories are entitled to. Take for instance the mines. The conditions under which the miners work are harder and more unpleasant than those of the factory workers. Still the Honourable Member does not propose to give them a continuous holiday even though they may work for a year or a longer period. I wish Sir that the Honourable the Labour Member instead of proposing that the application of the principle of a paid holiday should be restricted to the factory workers, had brought forward a measure applying the same principle to all industrial workers. If that case the measure would have been more welcome to the working classes of this country. It seems to me that the Government of India believes that if they were to make any progress, they should go very slow. I know that they are considering the question of health insurance but they begin with the factory workers only. Similarly, when they are proposing to give holidays to the workers they begin with the factory workers only. I would like them to consider whether this rate of progress is not a very slow one. If they begin to give holidays to the workers in the factories first then to miners, then to dock workers and then to the plantation workers, it will take several years before all the industrial workers are covered. I would like, Sir, the Honourable the Labour Member to consider whether he should not adopt any other method, so that progress will be quicker.

Then, Sir, the holiday which the Honourable the Labour Member propose, for the workers in factories is a very short one and in my judgment it is very inadequate considering their need for rest. He will agree that work in a factory is a very hard one and if a man works continuously for a year, a holiday of seven days out of which he will receive payment only for six, is not a sufficient rest. Therefore the Honourable Member has, in my judgment, made a mistake in making the holiday such a short one. Sir, those who work in Government offices generally get a month's holiday and that holiday is also a paid one. Moreover, work in an office, especially in a Government office, is not half so hard as work in a factory. I therefore think that the Honourable Member should have kept the paid holiday larger than what the Government of India gives to its employees working in offices. In Russia the industrial workers get a month's paid holiday. In several other countries the holiday given is a larger one and I thought that the Government of India would follow the examples of countries where workers are properly cared for, like Russia and other countries. This question was considered by the Bihar Labour Com-

mittee and they recommended that the holiday should be at least for a fortnight, and in the case of heavy workers such as workers in steel factories, they recommended a three weeks holiday. The Government of India did not accept even that modest proposal. Moreover, when we are considering the question of the length of the holiday, generally speaking, young persons below the age of 18 or 16 are given a longer holiday. There is a Convention passed by the International Labour Organisation on this subject of holidays with pay, and in that Convention special provision is made for longer holidays for young persons. (An Honourable Member "Even in schools they have long holidays!") The Convention passed by the International Labour Organisation also proposed that the length of the holiday should be in proportion to the length of the service, that is, if a man works in an industry for several years he should get a longer holiday, because he needs a continuous rest much longer than a man who freshly joins an industry. I hope that the Government of India and the legislature will consider this point regarding the adequacy of the length of the holiday.

Then this Bill provides that in order that a workman should be entitled to get a continuous holiday, he must work in one factory. I think that is a wrong thing. The worker should be free to choose his employer when he finds that the conditions are not suitable. If you pass legislation providing for a holiday for a workman, on condition that he will get the holiday only if he does not change his master, then the Government of India is weakening the power of bargaining of the worker. If the workman is free to change his master, he has a better power of bargaining regarding the conditions of his work than if he is tied down to one master. It is quite possible to make some arrangement by which a man may change his master but keep his right to a holiday if he works in one industry for a period of 12 months or more. I hope that the Legislature and the Government of India will consider this question.

Then, the Convention passed by the International Labour Organisation also provides a proposal that an agreement to relinquish his right by a workman with his master should be made void. I hope that the Government of India will accept this proposal also.

It is a good thing that this Bill provides for a continuous holiday, although the provision is inadequate. But let me tell this House and also the Government of India that in a country like India where distances are very great, if you holiday is only six days holiday, it will be difficult for workers to go home and enjoy the holiday. Half of his time—perhaps more than half—will be spent on the railway train. If a short holiday is to be given and if the worker is to take advantage of it, the Government of India should have made some provision for what I may call holiday homes. Such holiday homes are provided in Russia and in several other countries. Therefore, as the Government of India is thinking of giving a holiday and if the holiday is to be properly used by the workers, the Government of India should move in the matter to see that some holiday homes are provided for the workers. Otherwise the holiday may not be as useful as it should be.

There is also another point which I want to make and it is this: in India as I have said the distances are very large. If workers have to go home and even not for very long distances they will have to spend some money on travelling out of the small amount which they will get for six days. In India the average wage is generally 8 annas a day—the highest average wage is about a rupee a day. If a man gets a paid holiday for six days and if the average wage is only 8 annas, he will get three rupees. After spending for his railway fare out of these three rupees, what can he spend for the enjoyment of the holiday? The average wage in India will not be more than 8 annas a day. It is true that in the case of Bombay, of which my Honourable friend Sir Cowasjee Jehangir has some knowledge, the average wage is about a rupee a day; but even taking that figure, after all 6 rupees is not a sufficient sum for the enjoyment of a holiday for six days. I would therefore suggest to the Honourable Labour Member that he should approach the Honourable Railway

[Mr. M. N. Joshi.]

Member, who is not present here, that the railways should give concessions to the workers when they go out on a holiday. The Indian railways give concessions to all sorts of people, for parties going out for cricket or hockey matches, for theatrical companies going from place to place, for people going to conferences etc., and I therefore suggest to the Honourable Labour Member to persuade his colleague, the Railway Member, to provide railway concessions for the workers who take advantage of the Bill for providing for a paid holiday and who want to enjoy that holiday and recover their health and revive their efficiency. I have great pleasure in supporting the motion made by the Honourable Labour Member.

Sir Vithal N. Chandavarkar (Bombay Millowners' Association Indian Commerce) Sir, I have listened with great interest to both the speeches, the one made by the Honourable Labour Member introducing his Bill, and the other made by that veteran labour and social worker from Bombay, Mr. N. M. Joshi. I shall first deal with certain general observations made by the Honourable Labour Member. He referred to the past history of this case, he referred to the debate which took place in this House in January 1937 when Sir Frank Noyce moved "that the House do not approve of the Convention passed by the International Labour Conference." I shall just read what the Government of India's view as placed before the convention in Geneva was at that time.

"The Government of India believe that the principle is sound"—(*I agree and also believe that the principle is sound*)—"but every sound principle of labour welfare is not capable of satisfactory general enforcement by legislative enactment. In the present case any attempt to enforce a general system in India would meet with grave difficulties. Much of the labour employed in industries is drawn from and maintains contact with villages at long distances from industrial centres and a holiday would be of little value to the workers unless it made it possible for them to revisit their villages. But few could afford to make such a journey every year. Again holidays would lose much of their value for the worker unless they could be taken at a time when on account of

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdul Rahim) I do not think the Honourable Member need read all that at such length. If he has any comments to make, he can do so.

Sir Vithal N. Chandavarkar: The Government of India's contention was that conditions in India were so different that the object of such a proposal would not be achieved. Take the question of long distances and family events which are more numerous than in any other country I know of. Everybody is interested in the marriages and deaths of fifth cousins and sixth cousins, the funerals, and so on and the result is that a holiday with pay would be a misnomer in this country. If I were the Labour Member, I would straightaway say 'Pay your workers 6 days' additional wages and do not care what they do and how they spend the time.' Take my own constituency in the Bombay Presidency. We get workers from the Coast districts, to which practically for four months in the year—from May 15th to September 15—there is no transport. If they have to go at all during the monsoon, they have to go first to the Deccan, to Kolhapur and then by bus to the coast, in a very difficult time of the year when rains are heavy in the Ghats. We get workers from the Ghats and the villages near by, from Poona and Satara and other districts. Then we get workers from the Hyderabad State and lastly we get workers from the U.P. who are known as Bhaivans in Bombay.

Now, Sir, our experience is that the demand for holidays comes in three or four seasons. The first is before the sowing time, the second when the crops are harvested and the third is when the marriage season starts. Just before I left Bombay, my manager reported that there were so many applications for leave and if all of them were granted leave it would result in dislocation of work. In the case of the Hindus the marriage season comes in a particular period of the year.

Now, what will be the effect of this Bill. If Holidays with pay Bill is passed, then you are compelling the employers to grant leave to their employees. The principle of compulsion has not been introduced even in England up to

now Lord Amulree's report has not been given effect to. On the other hand, Government have allowed this scheme of holidays with pay to be developed by voluntary co-operation between the employers and the employees and even in India such a movement has already taken place. My friend Mr Miller referred to what has happened at Calcutta. There people are given pay for seven closed festival days. I know one concern in Bangalore where they started a scheme of holiday with pay a long time ago. Owing to a flaw in their orders, the workers, instead of taking this 7 or 10 days in one bloc, ask for leave not only on closed days but even on Sundays. Following that precedent, in the Mysore State now, most of the concerns have got schemes for holidays with pay. It is a voluntary development as a result of negotiations between the employers and employees. In my own concerns which I control at Bangalore, I have also accepted this principle but I have accepted the principle of continuous holiday and debarred them from taking leave on closed days. As regards continuous work, the principle I have introduced is that within a year they must put in 270 days work so that there will be 52 holidays and 11 closed days and I have left a gap of 33 days for sickness and other involuntary absence. But if this Bill is passed, what is going to happen is this. The workman will go on 2 months leave and he will get pay for 7 days during the period. Merely 7 days with pay is not really a holiday with pay. The real term ought to be 'leave with pay'. I agree that the system followed in Bengal or in the concern to which I referred in Bangalore is that of holidays with pay. That means that they get pay for some of the customary and sanctioned holidays. This is not leave with pay. I feel that so many complications will arise when people insist on going on leave. A man asks for leave. If it is refused, he goes. He simply goes away. He does not accept the order of the Manager. The next day he simply leaves and then comes and waits at the gate and pleads for mercy to be taken back. Now what has happened in Bombay. Under the Standing Orders, the workman is entitled to leave without pay after he puts in 12 months in the year. There is a further obligation is put upon us—I do not say unreasonably—especially nowadays, when transport difficulties are great. After the leave expires we have to keep the workers' lien on the post for 8 days. There is a ruling given under the Payment of Wages Act now—that if an employee overstays his leave without authority, he loses his lien not on the first day of his unauthorised absence but after 8 days. Even those days of grace have been included by the judgment under the Payment of Wages Act within the leave granted by the Standing Orders and the result is now when these people apply for leave they simply ignore the interests of service. I do not blame them because our social customs are such that a man wants to attend even if a distant cousin marries. I know of one concern in Hyderabad State with which I am connected as a Director where if a workman dies the whole mill goes to the funeral and the mill is closed and there is no remedy. My friend Mr Joshi and his friends have never told the workmen—at least I have not heard it on the floor of the House—not to do these things. He only speaks of our obligations.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: These are social obligations.

Sir Vithal N. Chandavarkar: You are speaking of social obligations. The clerks do not stay away on occasions like this. If a clerk dies, the whole staff of clerks does not go but only one or two go. They do not abstain from attending office. I know Mr Joshi wants all the conditions of Government service for his workers. Will he accept all the disciplinary obligations of Government service for the workers?

Mr. N. M. Joshi: I will consider.

Sir Vithal N. Chandavarkar: I am prepared to bargain with him on that point. There is no question of consideration. Here is a question of our giving rights and when I expect obligations in return, Mr Joshi says that he will consider.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: I am not a dictator.

Sir Vithal N. Ohandavarkar: It is now sought to impose obligations on the employers by means of legislation. When the Bombay Industrial Disputes Act was passed, there were several obligations put on the worker and Mr. Joshi opposed the measure. It is not a question of dictatorship or consideration. That being the difficult atmosphere in which we have to work, even if the principle is sound, I do not think anybody can call us reactionary if we oppose or find it difficult to support such a measure. I maintain that the conditions that are described in the Government of India's statement before the Labour Convention are still existing in this country. Now, what happened? The Government of India held a Conference when Sir Ramaswami Mudaliar was in charge of the Labour portfolio. At the Conference held by the employers with the Member in Calcutta in 1940 our case was that the first item in a scheme of labour welfare should be the sickness insurance. Government moved in the matter by appointing a special officer. We supported that move and we gave our co-operation. Now we have got a very valuable report from Professor Adarkar. We say that in view of the circumstances prevailing in the country, holidays with pay should be the last item on labour welfare programme. Government have already appointed a Committee for social security. We are going to have unemployment insurance, sickness insurance and minimum wages forced on us. In these circumstances how can Mr. Joshi's charge against the Government of India be justified? If you look at the history of labour legislation the record of the Government of India is such that they can be proud of it. They have been in much great hurry than several other Governments. I may not go into the motives, but the Government of India have always gone on legislating and compelling employers to do this and that.

A Bill for providing Holidays with pay was actually drafted and sent to us for opinion in 1942. Then, we presented our case and I am glad that even that democratic body among commercial organisations, the Indian Merchants' Chamber,—I am sorry Mr. Manu Subedar is not here—also supported the point of view taken by us and other employers. That being the case, I hope the House will understand the difficulty which I feel in supporting or giving whole-hearted support to the proposal made by Dr. Ambedkar before the House.

Now, Sir, I will come to the details of the Bill. I entirely agree with Mr. Joshi that leave or holidays that are granted under the proposed scheme should be continuous. That is the view of the Bombay employers. I believe in Calcutta they have had their difficulties and those difficulties may have to be considered while framing a scheme for holidays with pay. But in principle I entirely agree with Mr. Joshi that the holidays—I would rather call it leave—to be granted should be continuous. The whole trouble arises because the words used are 'holiday with pay'. Leave should be of a continuous nature. I object to the words 'at least'. I think the Government should lay down a definite period. I do not like the expression 'at least' because I want a standard period for all the provinces. I do not want various Provincial Governments having different periods of leave. Bombay, for instance, may give 7 days, Madras 10 or 12 days. The employers might voluntarily make it a period of 12 or 13 days. I would rather increase the number from 7 to 8, 9, or 10 days but it should be a standard period for all the provinces so that the Provincial Governments cannot run amok in compelling employers to grant holidays for different periods.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: There is no power given to the Provincial Governments.

Sir Vithal N. Ohandavarkar: You have got the provision for provincial rules. If I am wrong, I shall be corrected by the Honourable Member in charge.

Then, as regards the payment of leave pay in advance. I agree that it is a small amount but it is entirely wrong in principle. Two essential conditions of Government leave rules are: (1) that leave cannot be granted as a matter of right and (2) that leave will be granted only at the convenience of the employers. If leave is refused, the employees are allowed to accumulate

it, but leave can be refused, and it is entirely within the discretion of the employer to refuse even the earned leave if he cannot spare the services of the employee. Further, Government leave rules are that if leave is refused and if the accumulated leave amounts to nine months and the man is due for retirement, he can be given an extension only up to a maximum period of 6 months to enjoy the leave which has been refused to him in the interests of service. I do not think even the *chaprassis* when they go on leave, they get an advance of the leave pay. If I am wrong, I shall be corrected. I know what is happening in various industries. Even if there is no leave with pay due to a man and if he has got a long record of service, we pay him the advance if he wants it because he has been with us for a period of 15 or 20 years. But here what is going to happen is that if you give leave to the man as a matter of right, he will go on 7 days' leave and he may not come back to us and we have no remedy. The object of this Bill is to make labour more or less loyal to one concern so that there is a continuity of service.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: It is servitude.

Sir Vithal N. Chandavarkar: I do not want to go into that question because if I do I may have to speak on it for more than one hour. What happens is that the man takes away 3 or 4 rupees and goes away and then comes back and joins another employer or he may not come back at all. The word used is 'earned', so the Government thinks that he has earned those 7 days' wages. Why don't they follow the same principle in their own case and give the *chaprassis* advances? In Government service if a Government servant overstays his leave, he loses automatically his lien on the post. But in Bombay we have to keep his lien open for 8 days and if we take any action we have to face so many inquiries under the Bombay Industries Disputes Act and generally the decision goes against us. The man simply says that he posted a letter or a postcard asking for extension of leave. The Standing Orders require that the man should apply in writing for extension of leave. But the worker says that he posted a letter or sent a telegram which is generally of a stereotyped character. Once I almost told the Manager to give typed telegrams to workers when they go on leave so that they may not have to spend money on clerks who write out letters and telegrams for them. Therefore, it is wrong in principle to have this compulsory payment of half wages for 7 days and I oppose it.

Now, what is the position about sickness. Most of these village people go to the villages where there is no Doctor at all. Who is going to certify that the man is really ill? I may be told that the Government will make the rules, but it is very difficult to make rules to provide for all contingencies. Even if a man is really ill and he sends a certificate from an Indian Vaidya or somebody else, we do not know whether such a Vaidya or Doctor even exists there. In a place like Bombay you can get a medical certificate for 4 annas and they are very often used in Government offices. In these conditions I submit that the whole thing should not be left so vague in the Bill. If the Bill is to be improved, the conditions under which a man should become eligible for leave should be specified in the Bill itself. For instance, I have stated that if a man puts in 270 days work in a concern, then it does not matter if he is absent for 30 days on account of sickness or for other involuntary reason. In that case the position of both the employers and the employed will be made clear. But the clause as drafted is very vague and likely to make a difficult situation still more difficult.

Sir, I have nothing to say except this, that if this Bill is to be enacted and enforced, Government should make certain things, which I have mentioned, clear in the Act itself and not leave it to the rule making power. Even when the rule making power is exercised, it should be exercised in such a way that it does not lead to friction between the employers and the employees. The first principle that leave can be granted only at the convenience of the employer should be incorporated in the rules. My Honourable friend Mr. Joshi says, no. Again I take the case of my own concern at Bangalore. The scheme there was accepted by a tribunal, presided over by a High Court Judge, with one representative of employer and one representative of employee. The

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condition that I had proposed was accepted unanimously by the Board and accepted by the Labour Association, which was a party to that reference before that Court, the condition that leave should be granted at the convenience of the employer, and that leave, if refused, will be allowed to accumulate for a period of one, two or even three years, because if I refuse leave, I do not want the man to lose his leave. That safeguard must be there. The elasticity, which is the main feature of the Government and of all leave Rules must be incorporated in any scheme that emerges as a result of the passing of this measure. Sir, for the reasons that I have stated above, while I am not going to oppose the motion for reference to Select Committee, I am sorry I cannot support it.

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Guntur *cum* Nellore Non-Muhammadan Rural) Sir, the employers this time seem to have been very fortunate in obtaining a powerful advocate for their cause in the person of my Honourable friend Sir Vithal Chandavarkar, because without trying to import any passion, without even appearing to be opposing this Bill, while only saying that he is not prepared to associate himself with it and while protesting that he is not a reactionary, he has made in effect a very reactionary speech. The purport of the whole speech of his comes to this, leave it to us and our employees and we shall settle it between ourselves as we have been settling for the last sixty years, ever since we have been making profits in our mills by keeping these workers continuously illiterate, ignorant, unorganised, incapable of looking after themselves and even unable to get over their usual absenteeism.

I do not think this Bill is really and wholly intended to be in the interest of the workers alone. It is a quasi-political measure. What prevented this Government of India from coming forward to this Assembly as long ago as 1937 itself, in order to give effect to the recommendation of the International Labour Convention? On the other hand, they came forward to us to say that they were not prepared to give effect to it. They got this House—I do not know whether it was this House or the other House—to agree with them weighted as it was on the Government side. They got the House to agree with them that effect need not be given to that convention.

Then, again, my Honourable friend Sir Vithal Chandavarkar has volunteered the information that Government wanted to introduce this Bill and get it passed in 1942 and yet the employers were powerful enough to succeed in preventing them from introducing it. Today, why is it that the Government have come forward with this measure? It is not only because the Honourable the Labour Member is specially lucky, he happens to be lucky in having come just at this moment when the Government are anxious somehow or other to please labour to some extent and thus retain labour at its post of duty in these war times. They want to bribe everybody, they have bribed so many sections of the country and now the Government seem to think that they can bribe organised labour also. They seem to be succeeding to some extent. They have succeeded in gagging the mouth of one or two labour organisations in this country by making a very convenient monthly grant of no less a sum than Rs. 13,000. The Government are also giving bribes to others in ways which are difficult to discover but which I think in a way can be traced somewhere to Whitehall in England. There are other organisations, more and more organisations are being continually brought into existence under quasi-official inspiration in order to ply the trade of this Government in labour ranks. Not being satisfied with that, because after all these organisations are not able to hold the loyalty of all the organised labour in this country, they have found it necessary to come forward with some of these labour measures which should have been placed on the statute book long ago. They come forward with these Bills today and then ask us to admire them for their liberalism and their anxiety to serve labour by these measures.

Sir, my Honourable friend Sir Vithal Chandavarkar has introduced the fiction of comparing Government servants, taking the lowest of them, the *chaprassies*, with industrial labour. Does my Honourable friend remember that

the *chappassis* under the Government are guaranteed pension and also sometimes provident fund? Does he also remember that the Government is not on a par with private individuals, that Government is continuously under the fire of public criticism whereas these private individuals are a law unto themselves and the public have no control over them and they are not even able to tell these people how to behave themselves at least in regard to their own labour? Sir, that shows quite clearly how the employers are able to bring forward such intelligent and clever advocates for them to bamboozle—I beg your pardon, Sir, I shall not use that word.

Sir Vithal N. Chandavarkar: You can use that word, we do not mind.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: We can also make a choice of words—to try to mislead even such a well informed House as this. Sir, my Honourable friend Sir Vithal Chandavarkar wants us to leave the employers to care for their workers. What happens if any one Group of employers or any one big individual employer refuses to give any such leave at all? Is there any control over him? It is for that reason, it is not to fetter the hands or the liberty of those progressive employers, if there are any left in this country—my Honourable friend claims to be one of them,—it is not to fetter their liberty in helping their labour to get more holidays than what are provided for here but it is only in order to see that those reactionary and conservative minded men also behave themselves at least with a minimum of decency and humanity towards their labour that this Bill and similar measures are being proposed by the Government of India and Honourable Members on this side of the House try their best to associate themselves with any liberal minded proposal that is being brought in this House by Government or anybody else in order to help and assist labour in getting justice in this country.

My Honourable friend specially objects to workers in any concern going in a procession,—in a funeral procession,—in order to pay their last respects to a deceased worker or any one closely related to any worker. Sir, who is responsible for all these workers being dragged, induced and persuaded to leave their villages and come to distant towns? They leave all their usual social relations and they are unable to go back to their villages in order to enjoy the usual social amenities and the natural support which they get in their villages either through blood ties or social ties. It is these employers. They may say that they have not asked them to come. Well, it was not so long ago that even my Honourable friends were assisting the other friends,—the Europeans—in invoking the aid of the indentured system in order to get labour for the plantations in Assam and other places. Similar privileges they wanted to have also. Indeed there was the Workmen's Breach of Contract Act under which the employers were able even to exercise criminal powers or were able to take advantage of the criminal law in order to take any one of their workers to task merely because he had the temerity to leave their service and go away to his village or home. Therefore, Sir, it is these people who induced these men to come away after severing their social relations in their own villages and live in the towns. And then they want to deny even this privilege of social relationship and camaraderie to the workers in a particular factory who want it in order that they may be able to stand by the worker when he is in distress or whenever he is in joy. That is an attitude which I very much deplore and regret and I hope the employers in this country will not support that kind of attitude.

Then, Sir, my Honourable friend Mr. Joshi rightly stressed the necessity for the workers to have the privilege of working continuously for one year not only in one factory but in a successive number of factories whenever any necessity arises, provided of course that in any one factory he does not misbehave so badly that he comes under the censure of the magistracy or the courts that are set up under the Payment of Wages Act. But my Honourable friend Sir N. Chandavarkar does not want that privilege to be enjoyed by the workers. That is an extraordinary thing. He did not want to go into the abstract side of the conception of slavery; but I suppose he knows what is known as chattel, and he wants these workers to be tied hand and foot to one particular

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employer throughout the year, and then alone he wants that worker to enjoy this particular privilege, this very small privilege, of having seven days with pay. I do not subscribe to that view, I am in favour of the worker being given a right to leave the employer if he is dissatisfied with his conditions of employment with that employer and then go to another employer, and exercising the right to get his services under both these employers counted as continuous employment, so that at the end of the year he will be entitled to enjoy this leave with pay.

Then, Sir, my Honourable friend Mr Joshi has rightly pointed out that workers in this country are generally recruited from the rural areas, have to go over long distances to travel to their villages from their mills and so they will have to be given some special consideration so that they may have enough time to enjoy themselves or to be in the company of their own people. I agree with that and my Honourable friend Sir Narayan Chandavarkar also recognised this particular difficulty of the workers that they have to go long distances when they have to travel. Therefore that is common ground, what is not common ground is that Mr Joshi wants this leave period to be extended, my Honourable friend, Sir Narayan Chandavarkar is not quite so sure about it, whether it can be extended at all. He says it does not matter even if it is extended provided you leave the privilege of giving leave to the employer. I cannot agree with him. I do not want it to be the private privilege of the employer to give him leave or not; I want it to be a right to be exercised by the workers and to be conferred upon them by the State. I want this particular period to be extended, and to what extent? The Honourable Member in charge is on strong grounds when he said that the International Labour Convention has suggested that it should be at least seven days. But he did not say that it should be only seven days. It certainly does not prevent my Honourable friend from trying to extend it. After all this recommendation was made as long ago as 1936. Things are different today, organised labour is much more important in this country and the Government of India are more in need of its support, and it is but just that organised labour should be given a little more privilege than this, considering the special circumstances prevailing in this country. And my Honourable friend Sir Narayan Chandavarkar also laid stress upon that particular point that there are special circumstances in this country, but he wants to use that fact against the workers whereas I want to use it in favour of the workers. And that is for this reason. The constituents of my Honourable friend Dr Ambedkar are in very large numbers working as industrial workers in Bombay. They have to take the steamer to go back to Ratnagiri which takes time, and to come back also takes time. And therefore although I would like the Honourable Member to double this particular period of holidays with leave, if he cannot do that I suggest as a minimum that he should consider the advisability of including the two days taken up by travel each way, i.e., the day he leaves and the day he reaches his village, and the same two days on his return. These four days should be added to the time that the worker can be legitimately expected to take in travelling to his home and back. That will come to eleven days and it is not very much. I hope the Honourable Member will seriously take this suggestion into consideration.

Then there is the question of whether the average pay to be paid for this holiday of seven or eleven days is enough to enable the worker to go back to his village, see his relatives, make a few small and paltry and conventional presents to them, and make them also feel happy because one of their men has gone to town and has come back with something new, introducing urban civilisation into their poor economy. Will it be enough? I say it will not be enough. Therefore I suggest that the allowance that is to be paid and the pay that is to be given to the workers should be double the average when they have earned during the previous 10 or 11 months that is prescribed under this particular Bill. It is not asking for too much; it is the minimum that any

one can ask for and I hope this war-minded Government which is having plenty of notes at its disposal will not find it so very difficult to agree to it and also to persuade these employers who are paying huge sums as excess profits tax to make this allowance to their workers.

Then there is another point that Sir N. Chandavarkar has made, that this leave shall be utilised by workers continuously on any one occasion. I do not agree with that. It must be left to the convenience of the worker as to when he wants to make use of this holiday and for how long. I do not know whether this Bill gives that privilege to the worker of utilising this holiday; not on any one occasion only in that year but on two or, if necessary, more occasions, whenever the need arises. If the Bill does not contemplate it and the Honourable Member did not have it in his mind when he was drafting this Bill, I should like him to keep it in mind and give this privilege to the workers.

Sir, there was a big point made by Sir N. Chandavarkar which I wish to oppose. He says leave should be granted to the workers at the convenience of the employers. I oppose it, and for a very good reason. He seems to think that the employer is in the same position as Government. It is not so. The employer is there in charge of his factory by virtue of the leave given to him by society as a whole and the State concerned to function as employer. He is treated by some of us as a mere trustee and nothing more. The real owners of this property are the workers, including the employers,—if of course they wish to consider themselves as workers. But surely the employers have no moral right whatsoever to flaunt their ownership and then say, "We are the lords of the whole thing here. The workers are only here at our mercy, they are to behave at our command and on our dictation" and therefore just as the

P.M. Government today has got the right to grant or not to grant leave to its workers, we must also be allowed to enjoy the same privilege. I refuse to allow this privilege to the employers. They are mere trustees and they have not discharged their trusteeship properly till now—in fact, they do not realize that they are trustees. Therefore, it is most necessary that this privilege of deciding when and how the workers shall make use of leave with pay shall not be given to the employers.

If a worker is not able to or is unwilling to utilize his holiday with pay in any one year, he is entitled to use it in the next year. I agree with that provision in the Bill, but I want to know from the Honourable Member in charge of the Bill whether he contemplates 'tagging on' of the previous year's 7 days holiday to the next year's 7 days to which the worker is entitled, so that a worker will be able to enjoy, if he so cares to, a continuous holiday of 14 days. That will mean that at least once in two years, a worker is able to go back to his village and have a grand holiday to recoup his health and come back to his work in good spirits.

The Honourable Dr. B. E. Ambedkar (Labour Member) That is provided in the Bill.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: I am assured that it is in the Bill, and I am glad that this provision has been made.

Then, Sir, there is a lacuna in the Bill. Dr. Ambedkar places too much confidence both in the employers and in the Government of India's readiness to come forward whenever a need arises for the necessary legislation. And therefore he says that he will come forward whenever he finds it necessary to provide for the prevention of any abuse by any employers of their right to do any counting and accounting that workers have put in continuous service for 11 previous months. He himself says it is quite possible that some employers may try to dismiss the workers just a few days or weeks before a worker becomes entitled to leave. He sees that possibility, yet he does not want to make any provision for it. I can only say that it sounds rather strange in the case of an Honourable Member who is very well known for his industry, who goes to his desk and sits in his library at fixed hours. Here he comes forward like a lazy man and he has not been able to put in a little more work in adding a few lines more in order to prevent any such mischief which may

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occur in the course of a worker's career under an employer. I hope the Honourable Member will try to make the necessary provision at the Select Committee stage in order to fill this lacuna.

What is to happen to all those workers who were employed in non-perennial factories in this country before the war? There may be as many as 4 lakhs of workers working in what are known as seasonal factories as against 18 lakhs of people employed in perennial factories, that is, sugar mills, which have come into existence during the last ten years, rice mills, attar mills, and several other factories. All those places of employment have not been brought under the scope of this Factories Act and even of the few that have been brought under the scope of this Act he wants to exclude a very large class of workers from enjoying this minimum privilege. I think it is a mistake. I very strongly desire that this shall be made good and necessary provisions shall be introduced into this Bill so that those people may be able to take advantage of it. He may ask, how? I would like to proffer a suggestion for whatever it is worth, and that is if in any seasonal factory a worker is in continuous employment for not less than one month, he may be entitled to enjoy at least one holiday with pay. That will also satisfy the criterion of my Honourable friend, Sir Chandavarkar. Sir Vithal Chandavarkar does not mind whether a worker goes to his village to enjoy his earned leave, or not. So make him entitled to enjoy at least one day for every continuous period of one month service that he puts in. Now he gets a day off—Sunday—but he does not get any pay for that day. He has to make both ends meet somehow or other by his own efforts. Therefore I urge that one holiday with pay for every month of service should be provided. If it is not provided it can only mean this. These people working in seasonal factories, hailing, as they do, from villages have no organisation; and therefore this Government is not afraid to ill-treat them. I hope that is not the feeling of the Honourable Member in charge of the Bill and I trust that he will take advantage of this suggestion and give them whatever help he can possibly give.

Sir, there are other speakers also who would like to make other suggestions and I do not wish to take any more time. I would only like to add that I am generally in agreement with the objects of this Bill, but that it does not go far enough, and myself and the Congress Party expect the Honourable Member to come back to this House from the Select Committee with a much better and much more favourable Bill for the workers.

Mr. T. S. Avinashlingam Othettiar (Salem and Coimbatore *cum* North Arcot Non-Muhammadan Rural). Sir, we support the principle of the Bill. We are always for supporting Bills which ameliorate the condition of workmen in this country. In those cases we shall not even go behind the political motive if any of the Government.

I must protest on this occasion against the prostitution of Government funds for financing labour organisations for political reasons. It is not necessary for me to say explicitly to what I refer,—I mean the giving away of Rs. 13,000 to the Trade Union Congress. The other day an adjournment motion was moved protesting against the statement of the Honourable the Labour Member. If the Member concerned were serious we should have taken this opportunity to come and verify the facts before the Labour Member today, but unfortunately, he is conveniently absent. I do not know what other labour organisations they are trying to corrupt.

Leaving that point aside, I want to make a few observations about the Bill itself. Section 35(a) seeks to remedy the mischief that has been done by section 48 which gives powers to the local Government to exempt holidays. Section 48(2) A (d) and (e) give power to the Local Government to exempt the holidays on Sundays which are made compulsory under section 35. We would like to know in how many factories and mills and in how many cases the Local Government have interfered in this matter, and how many labourers till today have been deprived of this weekly holiday.

In section 35A, which is the new section to be introduced, there is a lacuna. It is said that worker who deprived of any of the weekly holidays for which provision is made by sub-section (1) of that section, shall be allowed, as soon as circumstances permit, compensatory holidays of equal number to the holidays so lost. "As soon as circumstances permit", there are words which give scope for defeating the section itself. A definite period should be fixed for this compensation to come into effect. These qualifying clauses have an odd way of being used against the workmen themselves and so I would suggest that in the Select Committee a definite period be put by which they can fix the period within which the compensatory holidays will be given to them.

Secondly I come to the new Chapter 4(A) dealing with holidays with pay. We are entirely for this and I would support the suggestion of the Honourable Sir Vithal Chandavarkar that the Select Committee should fix the number of such days. I would like in this matter an all India policy to be followed rather than that there should be separate Central and Provincial policies. In this regard the Labour Commission Report has rightly said that these holidays with pay granted to workmen have the effect of improving their efficiency and their attachment to the organizations which they serve. So I would appeal to the Honourable Sir Vithal Chandavarkar that it is in their own interest that these holidays with pay be granted to workmen. As a matter of fact every employer should support this Bill.

I think that certain of the suggestions that he has made will not work in practice. He says holidays should be given at the discretion of the employer. In practical life that will be the procedure. Taking holidays at a particular time may not be in then interest or in the interests of the establishment that they serve. My view is that there won't be much of a quarrel in the actual giving of these holidays.

Another point is what my Honourable friend, Professor Ranga referred to, that it should not be possible for any employer of labour to evade the provisions of the Bill and yet go unpunished. We owe it to this Bill to make it not only fool-proof but knave-proof.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sh. Abdul Rahim) The Honourable Member can continue his speech after lunch.

The Assembly then adjourned for Lunch till Half Past Two of the Clock.

The Assembly re-assembled after Lunch at Half Past Two of the Clock. Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta) in the Chair.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Before lunch, Sir, I was just saying that law should be made fool-proof or knave-proof and I said that things must be made clear that any attempts on the part of employers to deprive their workers of these holidays must be prevented by a provision under this Bill itself. Sections 60 and 61 in the Bill as sought to be amended prescribe the penalties. There it is provided that employers will be punished if there is any contravention of section 49 B, C, D, and E, i.e., where people are entitled to this holiday with pay and where they are not given, the employers will be subject to this penalty but that does not make clear that if any employer prevents any worker from getting the right of this holiday with pay, any action against him is possible. Suppose before a year is out, after eleven months, a man is dismissed without any proper grounds, this Bill does not make the conduct of such an employer punishable. I would like, Sir, that along with G there must be a provision saying that if any attempt is made by previous dismissal without any valid reasons or otherwise, this penalty must come into force. We think that amendments are necessary to meet the few points which I have mentioned. Generally we support the principle of the Bill.

Dr. Sir Sia Uddin Ahmad (United Provinces Southern Divisions. Muhammadan Rural): I share the opinion of some of the Members of this House that labour legislation should not be brought before the Assembly piecemeal. Ever

[Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad.]

since Sir Andrew Clow became the Secretary of the Labour Department (who happened to be the Secretary of the Labour Commission) Bills after Bills have been coming before the House in connection with one aspect of the Labour problem or another. I thought that the time has come, when we are considering the reconstruction of every problem, we should also consider whether we should have a fresh orientation of the entire labour problem. This problem has arisen under modern conditions. It did not exist in olden days in the order of society and the culture that then existed. There were labourers and servants in those old days but they always ate the same meal and enjoyed the same privileges as their masters and they shared with the latter all their troubles and joys. They lived as members of the same family and there was not this fight between the capitalist and labour. But in the modern civilisation, when the capitalist began to exploit labour in order to fill up his own pockets at the cost of labour, then the tug of war started. It became very serious in most countries in the West and it has now come to India as well. I know of one country at least before the Great War where this struggle between capital and labour did not exist. We talk day after day as to whether the hours of work should be 36, 40 or 42, whether strikes are permissible, if so under what conditions and whether it is or is not a punishable offence and this is doing things from the wrong end. We ought really to solve this problem in an entirely different manner. Call it nationalisation of industries or as some call it rationalisation of industries, whatever the term used, I would like the labour problem to be settled for good and that is the only way in which it can be definitely ended once for all. I am afraid the Capitalist regards himself as an alien who is there only to exploit labour, get the maximum benefit from his labour for himself and give the minimum wages to the workers. The workers should be considered as partners with the capitalists in every business. Unless labourers and capitalists are regarded as equal partners in the same firm, this struggle between Capital and Labour will go on without end. I should like very much that this problem is settled at least within our time. I do not know whether this amending Bill is an improvement or the reverse of the previous one. I say this that so long as you maintain a sharp distinction between employers and the employed, discipline or *esprit de corps* cannot be kept up. I have to face a similar problem in the University of Aligarh. So long as you treat the members of the staff as a body of servants of the governing body or the employers, the work will never be done. Pass any rule you like but the *esprit de corps* cannot be maintained. The only principle on which the problem could be solved and solved satisfactorily is to treat all the members of the staff as business partners entitled to a share in the fortunes of that particular institution. That is the only way in which you can get the maximum benefit out of them for the institution. This same principle should be adopted in all business concerns. Times are moving very fast and if we do not foresee events we will be forced to do it. This is really the origin of the Bolshevik movement, because they did not foresee that trouble was coming. Whenever you start a business you must have a capitalist unless the Government takes place of the capitalist. I am not in favour of destroying the capitalist. I think they have their place and they have their utility and they are the integral part of the development of the country. Let them be there. Then we want expert managers, we want expert advice and we want the workers but these workers ought to be treated as co-partners. Let the worker have his living wage. Let the capitalist have the bank rate of interest, viz 3 per cent. It is the minimum which they must get and it should be considered as a part of the expenditure before any profit is declared. Let the Managing Agent also have a living wage according to his standard of living. The Congress has already fixed Rs 500 as the maximum salary of any person in office, and in the absence of any suggestion I would follow the lead, that Rs 500 should be the salary of every managing agent, plus furnished house and a motor. I do not stick to this figure of Rs 500, but I say there should be a living

wage for all according to their standard of living. Similarly you must calculate according to the standard of living a minimum wage for labourers in certain localities it may be Rs. 10 and in other localities it may be Rs. 7½, but you must give a minimum living wage.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: What is a living wage?

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Wage that is sufficient to provide clothing, shelter, and food and the necessities of life for himself and his family—that is what I call a living wage. Pay the labourer at the market rate as you pay your clerks or managers and other persons engaged in that business. Afterwards you put down by means of compromise a schedule that whatever profit is made, it will be shared in certain proportions—say every labourer will be entitled to get one pie or half a pie in the rupee, and every clerk will be entitled to so much and the managing agents will get so much, and the capitalists and share holders so much. The proportion will be fixed in the articles of association, and whatever profit is made will be distributed equitably. In that case the owners or capitalists and the managing directors and every person connected with the industry will have a share and an interest in the industry. Nobody will ask “How many hours have you worked?” The workman knows that if he works more he will get more and will be inclined to do more work. We have the experience of the cottage industries—there the people work for about 12 hours a day—the whole family works and do not grudge it because it is their own work and they are not responsible to any one and whatever profit is made comes to them and is not taken away by somebody else. But if you keep labour in the nature of indentured labour, not free, and you only require them to work without giving them the full value for the work extracted from them, then there is a very different feeling, and so long as that feeling is there and there is this difference between capital and labour, then it will end either in chaos or in some kind of Government interference which I cannot describe at the present moment. I think, therefore, that it is very desirable that we should establish this principle. In some factories it has been established. In one case at least I noticed that the labourer and the capitalist had become co-shareholders in the development of the factory and the profits were divided in a particular proportion among all persons responsible for the production in that mill.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: You have not said who should control that industry.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee (Calcutta Suburban Non-Muhammadan Urban) Capitalists and labourers jointly being co-partners.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: My friend asks me “who is going to control that particular industry?” Take coal for example, which is now before us. I have not studied this problem of coal on the spot but from what I have heard I have come to the conclusion that the trouble between employer and labour is mostly responsible for shortage of coal. Some people say the coal is not there. That is wrong. The coal is there and I think they have enough coal to keep us going for a sufficiently long time to come. The transport difficulties are there no doubt, but they are not insurmountable. The shortage of coal is not due to short of wagons, as people sometimes make it out to be, but it is due to the fact that the owners of those mines do not like that the coal should be lifted. The proprietors think that if coal is lifted now, nothing would be left to them and they do not like that. They want more money for less quantity. That is one of the difficulties. The second is that they do not pay proper wages and persons who have worked there for some time have left owing to the absence of good wages.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: This is a Bill for the payment of holidays—for paid holidays!

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: I started with the idea of a general discussion. It is my friend who is responsible for asking this question. I am merely answering his question. I never intended to bring up the question of coal now. I am merely giving it as an illustration. I gave notice of a Resolution which unfortunately was not balloted—that we should nationalise the coal industry in

[Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad:] the interests of the development of industries in the country. As for control, I would like to leave the control as it is, but if it becomes unmanageable or if it works against the interests of the people, the Government of the day will have to step in and nationalise or rationalise the entire industry. I do not think the question of control is of great importance now. It will assume importance only if a group of industrialists engaged in the same industry form a combine and try to exploit the consumers to a larger extent. So long as there is no combination of industrialists among themselves, as there is in some cases, and which I would very much like to explain on the floor of the House one day, it does not matter. But if it does occur, the government will have to step in.

I say again that we ought to work in such a manner that the interests of capital and labour go hand in hand and there ought to be no trouble between labour.

Mr. D. S. Joshi (Government of India nominated Official): On a point of order, Sir, that does not arise from the general principles of this Bill.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: As this is the first time this Bill has come before us and goes to Select Committee, I am rather entitled to discuss the general purpose behind this Bill. When it comes back from the Select Committee then I cannot. We ought to proceed and finish this quarrel between labour and capital, because we must remember that whenever the difficulties increase, it is the experience in every country that labour will always win and the capitalists will not; they may win for a certain length of time, but the ultimate success will be in the hands of labour because they are larger in number and have more votes in parliamentary and other elections. I think it is very desirable that we ought to create a situation in which these two will go hand in hand. Talking of reconstruction, there is the question of unemployment which comes in—it is also a labour problem. There is no question of unemployment as far as the capitalists are concerned. Therefore this question is also very peculiar to them and this ought to be taken into consideration so that the factories should employ the maximum number with good wages. Therefore I say again that this question should be considered from a broader point of view, either in this connection or later on and I hope the Honourable Member for Labour, who represents both capital and labour, will be in a position to solve this question. I say capital and labour because on one side he spends 20 crores of rupees in buildings which even an ordinary capitalist cannot do and he is also the representative of labour.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir (Bombay City Non-Muhammadan Club): Which clause of the Bill are you referring to?

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: This is general discussion of the policy. We are not discussing the Bill clause by clause. The Labour Member should be able to tackle this problem and in view of the fortunate position in which he is placed, I hope he will tackle this problem and bring in this question of reconstruction of the future policy in regard to industries after the war.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: My task has been considerably lightened by the fact that there has been general support given to the motion which I have made in regard to this Bill and therefore in the course of the reply which I propose to make to the debate, I shall be very brief.

I had better say something straightaway with regard to the speech of my Honourable friend Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad. What I propose to say is this—that I really do not propose to say anything about what he has said and I hope he would not take it as an act of discourtesy to him, because what he has said, if I may say so, has really very little to do with the Bill which is under discussion. He has propounded a novel theory of solving the labour problem—namely partnership. I am sure that we are greatly benefited by the elucidation which he has given of this new ideology, and I can assure him that when the problem of our constitutional structure comes before us for discussion what he has said undoubtedly would be a matter of great use and

benefit not only to myself but to all those who will be engaged on that problem.

Coming to the other speakers I first propose to deal with the observation which fell from my friend Sir Vithal Chandavarkar. He referred to the Resolution which was moved by Sir Frank Noyce in this House with regard to the International Convention dealing with holidays with pay. I did not, it I may say so, succeed in catching exactly the point that he wanted to make by reference to that speech but I understood him to convey the fact that the Government of India had changed front.

Sir Vithal N. Chandavarkar: No, no.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: That in 1936 they were opposed to it, while now they are prepared to give recognition to the principle contained in that Convention. I do not think that there has been any change in the position of the Government of India. I have read the debate with some care and attention and I am quite satisfied that the reason which led the Government of the day to oppose the Convention was because of the misunderstanding that if a convention has to be recognised it must be recognised as a whole. It could not be recognised in part and the Government of India, as it was then advised, felt that it was impossible, having regard to the circumstances of this country, to accept the convention as a whole and although therefore they were prepared to accept the principle and also prepared to investigate the possibilities of applying it in some limited manner they could take no other course than the one which was open to them under the circumstances which then prevailed.

Now, my friend Mr Joshi has made some points in the course of his speech. Two of his points, I must admit, are points of substance. The first point that he made was that although we were limiting the scope of the Bill we have limited it to a factory and we have not agreed to extend the principle at least to an industry. As I said, I admit that this is a point of substance but I must at the same time point out that to have applied it to an industry means that it would be necessary for us to devise some method by which we could pool the resources of those concerns which come under one particular industry. Now, although as I said, I have the fullest sympathy with the point which he has made, it is not possible for us at the present moment, without any experience behind us, to work out a pool system by which all factories within a particular industry could be made to share the cost of broken holidays earned by different employees in different factories arising out of broken periods of service in different factories. And this is the reason why it has not been possible to make the thing applicable to industry as a whole.

The second point which Mr Joshi made was the complaint that the holiday period provided in the Act is too short. I also admit that there is considerable force in that. 7 days is in fact too short a holiday but there again I am confronted with another difficulty, which difficulty is a difficulty which I am sure both Mr Joshi as well as Sir Vithal Chandavarkar have to admit. The difficulty arises on account of the desultory character of our labour. Labour, as Mr Joshi and Sir Vithal Chandavarkar both know, take long holidays for a variety of reasons and consequently the absenteeism which is prevalent on account of this habit does really complicate the matter very much. If our labour was induced or was trained to give continuous service in a factory for a larger number of days than they have been doing now, I should be quite prepared to admit that the case for extension of the holiday beyond the period that we have fixed would undoubtedly be very strong but I hope that the fact that we have given seven days' holiday would have its indirect effect on the labouring and working classes of this country who will realise that if they did render more continuous service than they have been doing, they would be making stronger the case for the extension of the holiday beyond the period of seven days but as the situation stands, I think it would not be justifiable to go beyond the prescribed period of seven days which, if I may say so, is also the period which was recommended by the Convention.

[Dr B R Ambedkar.]

Then, Sir, another point that was made with regard to the same question was with relation to the application of the Act to non-perennial factories, a point that was made by my Honourable friend Prof. Ranga of the other side. To that point also my reply is the same, namely, that

S.M. the provision for 7 days paid holiday is made to those workmen who are not getting a sufficiently long rest, if I may use that phrase. Now, a non-perennial factory is a factory where people do get long period of rest. It may be that it is a case of involuntary employment, but I am not looking at it from the point of view of employment or unemployment. So far as the Bill is concerned, we are looking at it from the point of view of rest and so far as the non-perennial factories are concerned, the workmen certainly get a sufficiently long period of rest so that it cannot be said that in their case there is as much necessity for a paid holiday of 7 days as it is in the case of the perennial factories.

Then, Sir Vithal Chandavarkar raised a point with regard to the words 'at least' in one of the amending clauses. He expressed the fear that having regard to the use of the words 'at least' in one of the amending clauses it would be possible for Provincial Governments to direct that the factory-owners may be compelled to give more than 7 days. Now, I would like to convey the assurance that has been given to me by my legal advisers that under the amending section, as it stands, it would not be possible for the Provincial Governments to compel an employer to give more than 7 days' holiday. Another point which was made by Sir Vithal Chandavarkar was that this was a premature measure and that, in his opinion, this measure should come last, certainly it should come, according to his judgment, not before the Sickness Insurance Act which Government is contemplating and thinking about. I personally beg to differ from and if I had time I would have given some arguments in support of my contention. I would invite him to read the observations of Professor Adarkar in his report on health insurance for industrial workers which occur on page 112 where he will find some very strong arguments which he has produced in order to show that the holidays with pay is a measure which is so integrally connected with sickness insurance that if an order of precedence was to be framed it would be necessary to give priority to the measure relating to holidays with pay before social insurance. As I said, the report is now available to the Members of the Legislature and I will not take the time of the House in repeating what has been said by Professor Adarkar on this point.

Then, Sir, another point which has been raised on both sides is the question whether a measure like this should be compulsory or voluntary. So far as the Bill is concerned, I think it strikes a very happy mean inasmuch as the Bill, while making obligatory by law to provide holidays with pay for workmen who render a certain length of service, has left it open for voluntary agreement between the employers and the employees. As Honourable Members must have seen, there is a clause in the Bill which says that if Government is satisfied that a measure of holidays with pay substantially similar to the one which has been contained in the provisions of this Bill is introduced voluntarily by an employer and the Government is satisfied of its efficacy, Government has been giving power to exempt a factory from the obligations in this Act. I find that the position in Great Britain is also similar in this matter. Under the British system, there is a Holidays with Pay Act of 1938 and 2,800,000 people are covered by it. The rest of them, namely, 5 millions, get it under voluntary agreement, not under the Act and 4,000,700 get under what is called a long-standing custom.

Sir Gowanjee Jehangir: Where is the provision whereby an employer can postpone giving that leave?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I am coming to that.

Now, Sir, one other point I wanted to deal with, as I said, was this compulsory versus voluntary.

The other point that was raised by my friend Prof Ranga and also by Mr. Chettiar was that we have made no specific provision against an employer entering into an unfair practice whereby he would discharge an employee in order to prevent him from earning his holiday. To that point I had referred in my opening speech when I made the motion and I said that while Government is aware that certain practices may develop, Government does not think that they ought to take any action straightaway. Government would prefer to wait and watch and see which side resorts to what sort of strategem in order to over-reach the other side. But, as I said, if there is a strong feeling on the point and those who represent labour are able to convince the Select Committee that it is necessary straightaway to have a provision entered into the Act itself to prevent any such practices, it will be open to them to move and get it through. Government does not regard that as a matter of principle and will not stand in the way of the thing being done in the Select Committee.

The other point which has been raised is whether this question of leave should be entirely made dependent upon the wishes of the employee, namely, that the employee should have a right to determine from what date and at what time he should exercise his holiday. Now, we have deliberately made no provision in the Bill for that and we have left it to the Provincial Governments to make rules to regulate what should be done with regard to that particular point. I think it would be desirable in an experiment of this kind not to tie down everything by statute. It would be better if the matter was left to be regulated by rules for which the Bill authorises the Provincial Governments to make, because, as the House knows, it is much easier to change a rule than to change a statute. But as I said, if the parties to this Bill who are concerned and affected do desire that this should be made the subject-matter of a statute, it will again be open to the Select Committee to do so.

I do not think there is any point raised by any Honourable Member which I have not covered and I therefore do not propose to say anything more in support of the motion I have made.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta) The question is

"That the Bill further to amend the Factories Act, 1934 (*Second Amendment*) be referred to a Select Committee consisting of Nawab Siddique Ali Khan, Khan Bahadur Shaikh Farid-Haq Piracha, Mr. R. R. Gupta, Mr. A. C. Inskip, Sir Vithal N. Chandavarkar, Rao Bahadur N. Siva Raj, Mr. N. M. Joshi, Mr. D. S. Joshi, and the Mover and that the number of members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the Committee shall be five."

The motion was adopted.

THE INDIAN RICE COMMITTEE BILL

Mr. J. D. Tyson (Secretary, Department of Education, Health and Lands): Sir, I move

"That the Bill to provide for the creation of a fund to be expended by a Committee specially constituted for the improvement and development of the cultivation, production and marketing of rice and rice products be referred to a Select Committee consisting of Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani, Maulvi Sved Murtuza Sahib Bahadur, Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh, Sir F. E. James, Mr. Hoosenibhoy A. Lalljee, Rao Bahadur N. Siva Raj, Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam, Dr. V. K. R. V. Rao and the Mover, with instructions to report on or before Tuesday, the 14th November, 1944, and that the number of members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the Committee shall be five."

Sir, the Bill before the House follows lines with which the Central Legislature has become very familiar. It seeks to impose a duty of excise, the proceeds of which will be devoted to the establishment of a Fund to finance in this case the improvement and development of the cultivation, production and marketing of rice and rice products: and it sets up a Committee to administer the fund on lines laid down. We already have similar Committees in respect of cotton, lac, jute, coffee, tea and coconuts. Indeed the present Bill is almost word for word a replica of the Indian Coconut Committee Bill which was passed by the Legislature during the last Budget Session.

From many points of view, rice is the most important crop grown in India. In point of area, it is our largest single crop; more than one third of the entire

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acreage in food grains is under rice. It is the most important single article of food in the country, the staple diet of a majority of the population and as about two-fifths of the total crop comes, in one form or another, into the market, its importance as a cash crop is also great. Not only is it our most important food crop, but as was demonstrated last year, the rice-eating population is on the whole much less adaptable in times of food shortage than those whose principal staple is, shall we say, wheat or ragi, and anything that seriously affects the quantity of rice available is apt to have repercussions much more serious and immediate than a comparable shortage in any other foodstuff. This is the more important because, of course, India has not for many years been self-sufficient in the production of rice. We were latterly in peace time an importer to the extent of an average of about two million tons a year and if the optimum nutritional requirements of the rice-eating population were taken into account, the shortage of rice would be even greater.

Again, as every one knows, our population is increasing and it is in the rice consuming areas where generally speaking the pressure of population is heaviest that the rate of increase is highest. Finally it is common ground among nutrition authorities that India must develop her protective foods,—milk, vegetables, fruits, poultry, fish, eggs, etc., and this can only be done if much more land is made available for these foods. Everything, therefore, points to the necessity of producing more cereals on less land,—in other words, greatly increasing the offtake per acre under food crops. Our yields of rice are low compared with yields in many other countries and I have not the least doubt,—I think no one has the least doubt,—that given proper facilities and improved knowledge it can be done. We can raise much more rice on the same amount of land as is under rice at present,—but it can only be done as a result of intensive research and vigorous development. I hope the House will forgive me for making these somewhat elementary remarks which are directed to showing not only the importance of the rice crop to India but also the need for very early action to increase it and improve it.

Now, I may be asked why the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research should not do all that is necessary in this matter, and why there is need for a separate Committee. Well, Sir, in the first place, the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research does not derive any revenue at all from rice. In spite of that, the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research has, during the past twelve years inspired and stimulated and financed much valuable work on rice. Progress has been made both in the evolution of better yielding varieties and in the improvement of methods of cultivation. Work is going on now to extend the area under these important types of seed and to work out manurial and cultural schedules for the cultivator, because the requirements differ so much in different localities that no single Schedule or indeed no small number of schedules will suffice. But these and many other fields of investigation have still been quite insufficiently explored. Much more research is necessary if the Agricultural Departments are to be placed in a position to give the cultivator the advice and help which the importance of the crop warrants. For example, fundamental research is needed into such matters as the inheritance, in the rice plant, of certain agricultural and botanical characters; the factors which induce drought-resistance, flood-resistance, soil-resistance, disease-resistance, rice plant nutrition, the changes which take place during storage—very little is really known about these factors which affect quality; technological aspects, such as removal of the various seed coats, polishing, and the relation of these to the nutritional properties of the grain. And when results in these and other fields have been established, the work will be only half done until adequate steps are to be taken to induce the cultivator to adopt the discoveries of the laboratory. Not long ago it was estimated that only about six per cent of the area under rice in India was under improved varieties. Development on these lines is apt to be very slow work; it calls for

demonstration and propaganda and, above all, for continuous and systematic pursuit of the policy laid down; and all this calls for money. Now, with its attention divided and its resources stretched to cover a very wide field of agricultural and veterinary research, the I. C. A. R. simply has not got the funds to do for any single crop what we now consider necessary for rice. That is why at its meeting in November last year the Rice Committee of the I. C. A. R. advised that rice research, development and technology should be put on a more permanent basis, both in the interest of the country as a whole and of the large elements of the people that live on rice. The Rice Committee, which is a small committee but representative of both growers and trade and industry, recommended the establishment of an Indian Central Rice Committee to do generally for rice what the Indian Central Cotton Committee has done,—I think it will be admitted, with conspicuous success,—for cotton. It advised that the Committee should be furnished with funds, either by Government grant or, failing that, by a levy at a low rate on rice milled in the factories. The Government of India's Agricultural Policy Committee (a Reconstruction Committee) which met in Simla in June of this year favoured the establishment of commodity committees for all the important crops of India including, of course, the food crops. We had already been thinking along these lines in the department, and this short history supplies the origin of this Bill.

As I have remarked already, there are precedents for giving a committee of this kind a settled and comparatively stable source of revenue in the form of an excise on the commodity in question. In the planning of research it is of prime importance that the financial position should be stable and known with reasonable accuracy for some years ahead. This cannot be achieved by dependence on the budgetary position which fluctuates from year to year, it can only be achieved either by means of a very large endowment or by the allocation of a separate and permanent source of revenue. Some of our statutory bodies like the I. C. A. R. derive their funds wholly or partly from a duty on exports. That would not of course be a significant source of revenue in the case of rice, and we have in the Bill before the House accordingly followed the precedents of the Coconut Committee and, partially, of the Cotton Committee itself. These two are respectively financed wholly or partly by an excise on the agricultural product brought for processing in the mills.

Now, Sir, I am prepared to hear it suggested that this proposal amounts to an imposition on food, and the poor man's food at that. I would, however, remind the House that only about 27 per cent of the rice produced in India is hulled in rice mills, the poor man does not generally consume milled rice. The classes that consume milled rice will be the classes that will bear the cost of this Committee. At the maximum rate proposed in the Bill, six annas a ton, which is less than one pice per maund, the burden works out, I am told at one anna per annum for each member of a rice-eating family. An excise at this rate would, we calculate, bring in a return of 24 lakhs gross. We should have to deduct the costs of collection. Though one Provincial Government has expressed a doubt whether such a sum would be adequate, I feel we could do something for rice with 24 lakhs a year, which is about twice the income at present received by the I. C. A. R. from its export duty.

The composition of the committee will be a matter on which the Select Committee, if the House appoints one, may be expected to have its say. But I should like very briefly to touch on the principles underlying the proposals in this behalf embodied in the Bill. As set out in the Bill, the Committee will total 51 persons,—a large figure, but it is difficult to cut it down while giving representation to all the interests that are affected. The House will see that growers on the one side and the industry on the other are evenly matched with 14 members each, distributed roughly according to the importance of the crop or the industry in each province. There is provision for expert agricultural and research talent and provision also,—though not by that name,—for representation of consumers, in so far as these are not already

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growers, traders and experts. But we have not specified, as I say, how the consumer will be represented. The growers, trade and industry were all represented on the I. C. A. R. Commodity Committee on whose recommendation this Bill has been promoted. The proposals have been circulated to provincial Governments which all concurred in the proposals generally and some useful suggestions were put forward which largely figure in the Bill. It is only right that I should add that one provincial Government, the Government of Bihar has subsequently reconsidered its view and withdrawn its support on the ground—I will quote letter—"that rice is not a valuable commercial crop and that in these circumstances the cost of research for its improvement should more properly be supported by ordinary revenues and not by the levy of a special tax as proposed."

As against this I hope the House will bear in mind what I have said about the smallness of the burden and the entire absence of any burden in respect of about 73 per cent of the rice crop which never goes to the mills at all, and also that the other ten Provincial Governments and the four central administrations agree with the Government of India that the proposals are desirable and should be pursued.

I have moved for a Select Committee. We are anxious to get the Bill through as soon as possible and to get the committee constituted and at work before another paddy season begins. I see there are a number of amendments suggesting circulation by various dates. I shall endeavour to keep an open mind until I have heard the arguments developed. In the meantime I cannot help wishing that my motion had come up after, rather than at an early stage of, the food debate. Already in that debate an amendment has been moved referring to the urgency of increasing rice production. I only mention it because I hope that Honourable Members who are thinking on those lines will agree to get this committee set up at an early date and therefore support reference to select committee.

Sir, I move

Mr. Deputy President (Mr Akhil Chandra Datta) Motion moved

"That the Bill to provide for the creation of a fund to be expended by a Committee specially constituted for the improvement and development of the cultivation, production and marketing of rice and rice products be referred to a Select Committee consisting of Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani, Maulvi Sa'ed Murza Sahib Bahadur, Mr Govind V Deshmukh, Sir F. E. James, Mr Hoosenbhoy A. Laljee, Rao Bahadur N. Siva Raj, Mr Ananga Mohan Das, Dr V. K. R. V. Rao and the Mover, with instructions to report on or before Tuesday, the 14th November, 1944, and that the number of members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the Committee shall be five."

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Guntur cum Nellore Non-Muhammadan Rural) Sir, I move

"That the Bill be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon by the 31st January, 1946."

Mr. Deputy President (Mr Akhil Chandra Datta) Amendment moved

"That the Bill be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon by the 31st January, 1946."

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Salt (West Coast and Nilgiris, Muhammadan): I beg to move

"That the Bill be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon by the 28th February, 1945."

Mr. Deputy President (Mr, Akhil Chandra Datta) Amendment moved

"That the Bill be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon by the 28th February, 1945."

Dr. P. N. Banerjee (Calcutta Suburbs Non-Muhammadan Urban) Sir, I fully appreciate the main object of this Bill. I entirely agree that a systematic effort should be made to expand the yield of rice and to improve its quality. It is a pity that a systematic effort has not been made so far. That shows the shortsightedness of the Government, and it is most unfortunate that it is only after the occurrence of a most disastrous famine that the eyes of the Government have opened. But, Sir, although I welcome the object of this Bill I cannot lend my support to some of its provisions. The provisions relating

to finding the fund for this purpose does not appear to me to be quite sound. Rice is the most important staple food of this country and the cost of the expansion of its yield and improvement of its quality should be borne on the general revenues of the country. The analogy of a cess on tea or coffee or sugarcane does not hold good in the present case. Those are articles which people could do without, but people of large parts of the country cannot do without rice. Therefore, Sir, I submit that Government would have acted wisely if they had set apart a substantial sum of money for research work on the expansion of yield and the improvement of quality of rice.

What will be the effect of levy of this cess? I think the producer or the consumer—perhaps both the producer and the consumer—will be affected. Is it desirable that the producer of rice, who is a very poor man, should be taxed and is it desirable that the consumer who also is in most cases a poor man should be burdened for the most staple article of his food? I do not think it is desirable.

Now, Sir, my Honourable friend, the mover of this motion, suggested that it will not add much to the burden of the producer or the consumer. I agree with him to that extent that the burden is not much, but still there will be some burden and it is my submission that this burden should not be imposed.

Then comes the question of representation on the committee which is provided in this Bill. The composition of this committee appears to me to be very unsatisfactory because it is packed with Government servants and Government nominees. If we look at the composition, we find that the producers of rice will have to depend for their representation on Government nomination, and the consumers have not been granted any representation at all. As regards the trade and industry—the rice trade and the rice industry—the representation does not go far enough. Therefore, Sir, I suggest that it would be wise on the part of the Government to reconsider this matter and bring forward a better Bill.

Coming to the details, I suggest that the growers' representatives should not be nominated. If there are no Associations of Growers in any part of the country then it would be better that they should be represented through commercial bodies—Chambers of Commerce or other similar bodies. It would be better still if associations of growers are formed to whom representation may be given. I also consider the representation of the different provinces to be unsatisfactory. The production of rice in Bengal is larger than the production in any other province. It is twice as much as the production of Madras and the production of rice in Bengal is one-third of the total production of the whole country. Therefore I urge that greater representation should be given to the Bengal growers, the Bengal industry and the Bengal trade in rice. This principle of giving greater representation to provinces which deserve greater representation has been recognised with reference to the other articles such as sugarcane, tea, coffee and coconuts.

Mr. J. D. Tyson: In this regard, may I point out that the Honourable Member's province is getting the biggest number on the committee—seven?

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: I admit that somewhat greater representation has been given to Bengal, but not to the extent which the importance of the province demands. As regards nomination, I have already submitted that this should be done away with so far as possible. If the consumers cannot be given any other sort of representation let there be some representatives on this body from the Central Legislature. Sir, if all these things are done then some of the objectionable provisions of the Bill would be removed and the Bill would be made more satisfactory.

Finally, I would suggest that the functions of this Committee should be expanded. It is not clear whether the Committee will confine its activities only to research work or will go further and take other measures for the improvement of rice. That also should be made clear, and if these objections which I have raised are met I will support this Bill. But for the

[Dr P. N. Banerjee.]

present I am not quite sure that I am able to lend my full support to this measure

Prof. N. G. Ranga: At first sight and on first thoughts I was inclined to support the main object behind this Bill. But on thinking more carefully, I am also anxious to see that Government will withdraw this Bill and bring forward a more satisfactory Bill as my honourable friend, Dr Banerjee, has suggested. In the hope that Government may enjoy a certain amount of flexibility of mind, I have suggested here that the Bill should be sent into circulation and brought back again before the prescribed date so that they may be able to obtain views of all the interests concerned, and then in the light of those opinions they may be willing to redraft this Bill and then ask the leave of the House to withdraw this Bill and come forward with another Bill.

Sir, the Honourable Member in charge of this Bill has made it perfectly clear that so far as this Government is concerned in regard to this Bill it was not thinking primarily or even incidentally of the producers and their interests but it was only thinking of the general public, whatever it may mean, and the great body of consumers who have to live upon rice. I can easily see why they are concentrating upon these two sections of the people. Today the country has suddenly become aware of a serious deficit of food supply in this country and consumers in towns and other places also have become victims to the profiteering that is going on in different parts of the country, encouraged by this Government and carried on through various middlemen. Therefore, there is a clamour on every side for more and more food and that too at lower and lower prices, so that everybody can have enough and also at lower cost. They want to take advantage of this general prevailing atmosphere and come forward here in this House and plead not in the interests of the peasants that this Bill is being introduced but in the interests of the consumers whose interests seem to be very much prominent in the counsels of this Government at this present juncture. I would have liked the Government to come forward with a better Bill than this primarily with the intention of helping, assisting and developing the interests of the producers, but that does not seem to be the case of the Government today.

Then, Sir, I am opposed to the very essential financial basis on which this Bill is framed. My honourable friend, who is in charge of this Bill, told us that there have been very many precedents and he has quoted the formation of various crop committees that we have had in this country from cotton to lac and so on. If there is a precedent, and I admit there is one, and it has been based on wrong financial basis, it is my business here and the business of the Members on this side of the House to oppose that precedent and to make it necessary for this Government and also for the country to work on different principles.

Sir, even in regard to the principle that I wish to suggest there are precedents. First of all, let me say on what principle I want the Government to go ahead in regard to these crop committees. The Honourable Member said that the Agricultural Policy Committee for Reconstruction has already suggested that there must be crop committees for all staple products of this country. I want committees for all these staple products but I do not want them to be established on similar financial basis. And why? It is for this reason. I said that this Government which owes its responsibilities towards purchasers as well as consumers and the general public does not want to contribute even a pie to the finances of a Committee like this and wants to shift its responsibility on the producers and the consumers and place the burden of financing all such operations on the slender shoulders of the peasants. They say this is not going to be very much. It may be so but we would like more money to be collected, more money to be placed at the disposal of this committee and in future times to come if we are going to have our say at all in the future counsels of this country, we are going to see that such committees

will come into possession not of such meagre funds but ten times and even twenty times as much funds. Therefore any sort of levy that is going to be raised will fall upon the peasants. And more so in the future, because as my Honourable friend Mr Manu Subedar has just now told me, at the end of this war there will again be foreign imports of rice coming into this country and the price of rice and paddy is bound to fall. And then it will be for the peasants to bear not only the lower price but also the additional incidence of such a levy as has to be levied under this particular Bill. Sir, when I am ready to ask the future Government also to levy even bigger cesses upon the producers of the staple products, why is it, it may be asked, that I am today opposed to this particular levy. It is for this reason. What is the contribution that the Government of India wishes to make for the financing of this committee as well as such other committees that may come into being. Does the Government of India come forward and propose that they are going to contribute just as much, if not twice or thrice, as the growers are going to be made to pay in order to finance this committee? Why should not Government come forward with such a proposal? It is not an unreasonable thing and there is a precedent for it. There is organised labour in this country. Very many benefit schemes are being organised here for it in this country. Many Provincial Governments have legislated for maternity benefits. The Provincial Governments have come forward to make their contribution too. Look at the example of England. There in many labour schemes like unemployment insurance and health insurance the Government comes forward to contribute at least as much as the workers and also the employers are contributing. Even here in this country in regard to Government employees and also with regard to those employed in the local bodies, Government have constituted what are known as provident funds and Government offers to contribute its own portion to these funds. Why is it that Government, when it is ready to make these contributions to these small sections of our population, is not prepared to make a similar offer of help and assistance and encouragement to the rice-growers of this country? I agree with my Honourable friend when he said that the rice-producing industry in this country is one of the biggest and we have as much as 80 million acres of land under rice. The producers of rice in this country number the largest among all our producers. What is it that this Government has done for them and what can this Government show as its own record of having done anything at all for these people. When these peasants were suffering from very low prices during the last economic depression what did this Government do? It was then that my Honourable friend Sir Ramaswami Mudaliar, who at that time was on this side of this House, had to get up and ask this Government (and in vain, since he could not succeed then) to impose a protective duty on rice imports from Burma, Siam and other countries. It was after a lot of struggle and trouble that when we the Congress Party came into this House, in cooperation with our friends on this side of the House that we were able to convince this Government and force them to impose a minimum protective duty in order to keep up the bottom for the rice prices and paddy prices. Government cannot very well lay claim to any sort of credit on this account. Now the Honourable Member comes forward and says that the I C A R has been doing so much but it has not sufficient funds. Whose fault is it that it has not got sufficient funds? It is the fault of this Government. If they had only accepted or adopted the principle that I am now suggesting, viz., to whatever money the I C A. R. collects from the duties imposed upon the exports of our own agricultural produce the Government also will be ready to contribute just as much to its revenues, certainly it would have been possible for the I. C. A. R. to finance many more schemes of research and development of rice than it has been able to do. I have no grievance with the I C A. R. It has done excellent work in this country. I want more and more money for it. While I myself and the late Mr Satyamurthi of revered memory were on the Public Accounts Committee we tried

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our best to prevent the then Finance Member as well as other people concerned from putting many more impediments in the way of the I C A. R. so that they might build up, sufficient reserve funds from out of the savings of the funds that were granted them by this Government. I want more money for the I. C. A. R. and I hope the Honourable Member in charge will keep it in mind and on the next occasion he will come forward with the adoption of this principle that the Government will pay at least as much to the I C A R as it is able to get today by independent means.

Sir, what are the objects for which this Bill has been brought forward. Are they wide enough? I have had talks with one or two responsible Members concerned with this Bill on the other side. They have told me that they are wide enough and that they can be made more wide also in the Select Committee, if only I and others would be good enough to come into it. Those on the other side have been paid all this time and they have been expected to go into this matter as carefully as possible keeping the interests of the growers in their mind. What did they do? They completely ignored the interests of the growers. Naturally one could not have expected them to give as much attention to this very essential and important aspect of the interest of the growers of rice as one could have expected from a representative Government.

This Government seems to be working in water-tight compartments, if not air-tight compartments. There was one gentleman, a worthy gentleman, who was sent to America to represent this Government at the Hot Springs Food Conference. There is another gentleman here who does not seem to know the work that that gentleman has done there and what are the results of the work of that gentleman there. Sir, here is a report of the conference and I do not know whether the Honourable Member will supply every one in this House with a copy. This was not a conference of the Governments of the United Nations held in the interests of the peasants. It was held in the interests of the consumers. It was held in the interests of the big businessmen, those capitalists who are anxious to have our raw products at the lowest possible price. It was held in the interest of those big manufacturers of the West, to enable them to establish an international grain pool, so that they can always procure foodgrains at lower and lower prices. Even in that conference the interest of the peasant seems to have been considered, much more satisfactorily and to a much greater extent than this Government seems to be anxious to consider. The Government suggest in this Bill that this duty and the funds from it shall be utilised in order to develop research, in order to develop the rice trade and in order to develop more production of rice. All these things have been thought of only in order to see that on less land with less labour we will be able to produce more rice than what we are able to produce now, so that more land can be placed at the disposal of what are known as protective foods or protective crops. But what happens to these poor growers who will be displaced when less land is put under rice? You will say 4 P.M. "Oh, they will be switched on to the production of fruit." May be so, but have you taken sufficient care

Mr. Deputy President (Mr Akhil Chandra Datta) Order, order. Adjournment motion. Bhai Parmanand

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT

SIND GOVERNMENT'S BAN ON CHAPTER XIV OF SATYARTH PRAKASHA

Bhai Parmanand (West Punjab Non-Muhammadan) Sir, I move that the Assembly do now adjourn.

Honourable Members: We cannot hear you...

Mr. Deputy President (Mr Akhil Chandra Datta) Will the Honourable Member speak up? He may come nearer, if he likes.

Bhai Parmanand: I move that the House do adjourn in order to discuss a matter of urgent public importance, viz., the Sind Government's order banning

one chapter of the Satyarth Prakash—the 14th Chapter—in the interest of security and public peace. On the very beginning I want to remove the impression that I am going to bring in any religious matter. My basic contention is a legal or constitutional. I think that this order of Sind Government is not justified by any constitutional or legal principle. This order purports to be issued under the Defence of India Rules for the public safety and the public interest while the fact is that the banning has nothing to do with these. I shall read what the Act says. In the preamble it is said—

“This section shall come into force at once and the remaining provisions of this Act shall come into force in such areas and on such date as the Central Government may by notification in the official gazette specify.”

And further on—

“Wherever an emergency has arisen which renders it necessary to provide for special measures to ensure the public safety and interest and the defence of British India and for the control of such offences.”

This is the real object of the Defence of India Act and I cannot see how the Defence of India Act can apply to the banning in the case of a book, which has not endangered the safety or public interest in any way. There was no evidence for it, otherwise the Sind Government ought to have given us their reasons for it. This action of Sind Government cannot be justified by any rule under the Defence of India Act.

Sir Syed Raza Ali (Cities of the United Provinces, Muhammadan Urban): What is the ordinance to which my friend is referring? Is it an order or an ordinance?

Bhai Parmanand: The Sind Government's ban on one chapter of Satyarth Prakash under the Defence of India Rules.

Sir Syed Raza Ali: That is an order, not an ordinance.

Bhai Parmanand: It may be so. Again, this order under the Defence of India Act was to extend only during the continuance of the war and for six months after that war. What does this ban mean? Is this going to continue during the war and six months thereafter or will it continue even after that six months period is over? Now is it possible for this Act to apply to the case of banning of the book? This book deals only with a religious matter. There is another question whether under the Defence of India Act we can deal with old religious books. My idea is that religion has to be kept free of this Defence of India Act and its rules, how is that the Sind Government applies these rules to the religious book or any one chapter of it? This one chapter is of course a criticism on Islam, but there are other chapters that give us criticism on other religions as well. Whenever the founder of a new religion, or a sect starts his movement, he cannot do so by his command, he has to propagate his new theories and generally to criticise those, which are already current. Swami Dayanand, the writer of this book, had to do the same. His criticism has got one single motive, and that is the reform of all religions and of the Hindu religion as well. That is the object. Surely, there was not the least abuse of any person or of any great man or of any great religion. I am sorry that I am not well and I cannot say all that I wanted to say . . .

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): The Honourable Member will proceed with his speech.

Bhai Parmanand: I am trying to do so.

The book has been in the market for the past seventy years—from 1875 in Hindi, and then it was printed in Urdu from 1940, perhaps much before this, showing that it was read by people—learned men of Islam and of other religions, who had open discussions with Swami Dayanand himself. The Punjab, particularly Lahore, was the centre of such discussions. Maulana Zafar Ali is here and he will bear witness to the fact that for many years there were discussions and controversies among the leaders of several religions in Lahore, Rawalpindi and other places but there was no bad spirit. Of course in these discussions which were attended by thousands, each one had to explain his own view and defend his own point. It is quite strange that after such a long time the Sind Government has come to discover that it was a source of danger

[Bhai Parmanand] to public peace. It is quite true that there was criticism and criticism had to be made by every writer on religious subjects. Sometimes it is urged that the *Satyarth Prakash* is not a religious book of the Arya Samajists because it is not revealed. It is true that the Arya Samajists did not revere it because of any revelation. They think it is the best logical book which they have adopted as their religious or sacred book of their faith, and it is not in any way, right or proper for the Government of Sind to ban its publication or printing without rhyme or reason. As I am not feeling well and shaking, with these simple words, I move that the Assembly do now adjourn.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhul Chundia Datta) Motion moved

"That the Assembly do now adjourn."

Khan Bahadur Shaikh Fazl-i-Haq Piracha (North-West Punjab, Muhammadan). Sir, my friend Bhai Parmanand, the Mover of the motion, deserves my thanks for having given us an opportunity of discussing such an important matter which has created a great stir in the Muslim community throughout the length and breadth of India and which hit for the motion moved by my friend could not have been debated in this House.

Sir, it is most unfortunate that Bhai Sahib should have come forward to condemn the action of the Government of Sind, which deserves the appreciation of not only the Mussalmans of the country but of all those sections who call themselves lovers of the country and advocate unity amongst different sections in India. Those who have read the 13th and particularly the 14th chapters of this book, however holy and sacred they may be for my friend, Bhai Parmanand and those of his views, will honestly come to the conclusion that such a writing cannot be ascribed to a reformer like Swami Dayanand. It is alleged that this is an addition made by some of his followers after his death. The truth of this allegation (An Honourable Member: "What is your authority for this?") has been always supported by one named Mahinud Dharampal who believed in Arya faith and afterwards embraced Islam. But I have nothing to do with this at present. Whatever the case may be, the language used in the chapter is so filthy, shameful and provocative that the bitterest kind of hatred is produced in the minds of not only the Mussalmans but in the minds of all those who have got any regard for decency or gentlemanliness. Sir, it is because of such writings and their publications that a foundation is laid for permanently creating hatred amongst the communities. I had the opportunity of reading some passages and I make bold to say that the blood of a law and peace abiding person like myself began to boil at the most insulting and filthy language used for Allah and the Holy Prophet. I realised at that time how persons on such occasions were in the zeal of their religious convictions actuated to commit crimes of murder and then when sent up for trial boldly make confessions. Such instances are experienced all over the country and my province particularly had to see many such instances.

If such publications are allowed a wide publicity and they are read by the general public who feel strongly about their religion, they will create a Hell in the country and would be responsible for many conflicts and bloodsheds, as has been experienced in several places where such differences existed. With the increase of education in the rural areas, Mussalmans there have become conscious and sensitive of their rights and religious feeling because they are more religious minded than people of the towns. I warn the Government that it is time for them that they should avoid the creation of such circumstances as prompt bloodshed in the country. In spite of the fact that since a very long time there has been a great hue and cry in the country and in the Muslim Press against the book the Government has not stirred at all in this matter. May I know why? These are the circumstances which create a great suspicion in the minds of the Mussalmans about the coming Central Government when India has the fortune of becoming a self-governing country. The subject under discussion today brings forth a reasonable ground for Mussalmans of the

country to demand Pakistan where at least they can expect to be able to keep the sanctity of their religion, God and their Prophet. The publicity given to such publications as the 14th Chapter in the Satyarth Prakasha is the biggest bomb for the country in this respect and I foresee bloodshed everywhere in the country, if no action is taken to stop its publicity. Government take so many precautions when they smell that riots are expected to take place at some places in the country. I say that the objectionable chapter of the Satyarth Prakasha would bring riots everywhere and it is high time for them to give their most serious consideration to the matter.

In my opinion the Sind Government has done a great service to the country in taking a lead in stopping the publication of Chapter 14 of the Satyarth Prakasha and thus obviated the chances of disunity and bloodshed in their province that would have resulted, as a result of the publication. I may tell the House that to a Mussalman loyalty to his Prophet is greater than any other being, greater than the regard for his wife, parents, children and even his King. I would therefore request all those friends of mine who call themselves the friends of Bhanatnata and advocate unity in different communities to strongly oppose the motion. Everyone of us should commend to the Central Government and the Governments of all the Provinces to follow the Sind Government's policy in this matter. May I, therefore, take this opportunity of appealing to the Ministers now functioning in the provinces to take up this question in their Executive Councils and to follow the good lead of the Sind Ministry. I can assure them that this action of theirs will prepare a ground of unity amongst the Mussalmans and the Hindus and they will be doing a great service to the country. Sir, with these remarks I oppose the motion moved by my friend Bhai Parmanand.

Mr. Lalchand Navarat (Sind Non-Muhammadan Rural) Sir, I feel that Bhai Parmanand was very wise in putting the legal question before the House instead of going into these quarrels which would injure the feelings of the other party. But on this Muslim side I still see an attempt to fight out and to create a quarrel even in this House and to injure the feelings of the Members of this House and also of those who are outside it. It would have been wise on their part if they had shown that according to the law, namely, the Defence of India Act, this order of the Sind Government is a correct or a legal order. Coming from Sind as I do, I know that that exceptionally estimable Ministry is not only capable of passing such orders but they will not see that peace is kept there, especially when murders and unlawful assemblies are so very common there. It would have been wise on their part to see if any other Ministry in India has passed any such order during the last 20 years when the book has been in existence. It is easy to find out why the Sind Ministry has passed this order. Most of the Ministers there prize themselves as being the members of the Muslim League. When we find that the two Hindu Ministers have also been a party to this order, we cannot refrain from saying that they are most condemnable. They have been condemned for this and for many other things and the Panchayats of Sind have met together and have asked them to resign on this issue. But their seats are very sweet to them and probably they will injure our feelings in many other matters as time goes on. We can gauge from this action of the League what sort of Pakistan would be Pakistan they have already in Sind. (Interruptions.) What I am submitting is this. It is very easy to get these things done. If we recount the list of the harm that has been done to the Hindus which is well-known to everyone, then everybody will say "Well, they have now been put up by the Muslim League and they take the credit of putting the whole of India into chaos and trouble."

Now, Sir, I will read to you the law on this point and I would advise the Government not to go into the merits of this book or rather the order. They should try to find out whether the Ordinance applies and whether the order is legal or not. I would tell them that it would be wise on their part to do that. If they do not agree with the Sind Government, then no other Ministry would

[Mr. Lalchand Navarai.]

create any disturbance like this. Otherwise, they would ask the other Ministers to come forward and create disturbances and thus disturb the peace of the country.

Now, Sir, to begin with, when the Defence of India Act was enacted (and I was a party to it), it was said that it is only for the war front. With that object, the Defence of India Act was enacted. Then, the power was given under this Act to the Government at the Centre to make rules. It was proposed that these rules will be placed before the House or at least the Members of the House will be taken into consultation when those rules are made.

[At this stage, Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) resumed the Chair.]

These rules have now been made and they are being abused all over the country. We have been asked that these rules should be revised but this has not been done. In this particular case, this rule does not apply to this religious matter. A part of it has been read by Bhai Parmanand. It says

"Whereas an emergency has occurred which renders it necessary to provide for special measures to ensure the public safety and interests and the defence of India

So, it is only for the defence of India and the safety and security of India that this Defence of India Act was enacted. Then I come to the other sections which clearly show that no order of the nature which the Sind Government has passed can be passed under any section or any rule of the Defence of India Act.

Now, let us see what are those rules under which a book can be proscribed or under which an order can be made that a certain book should not be printed. The House will then be convinced that it is not with respect to religious or communal questions or questions between certain parties or individuals that this Defence of India Act has to be applied. It is to be applied in particular cases and even with regard to the publication of books. I will refer the House to rule 38. What does this rule say?—

"No person shall without lawful authority or excuse do any prejudicial act or obtain, collect, record, elicit, make, print or publish, or distribute or communicate by any means whatsoever to any other person, any information likely to assist the enemy."

Does it come under that? No. The Rule further goes on

"make print, publish or distribute any document containing, or spread by any other means whatsoever, any prejudicial report."

Is this a prejudicial report? Certainly not—

"make, print, produce, publish or distribute any publication containing, or communicate to any person by any means whatsoever, any confidential information."

Does this come under this Rule? It does not. Barring the above, there is no other Rule that I have come across. Now, there is another Rule in similar strain and it is Rule 40. It says—

"Where in the opinion of the Central Government or the Provincial Government any document made, printed or published, whether before or after the Ordinance came into force, contains any confidential information, any information likely to assist the enemy or any prejudicial report, the Government may, by order, prescribe that book."

Now, Sir, it is very clear that the order of the Sind Government is illegal and it should not have been made. Shelter has been taken under this that this order is for the public safety and order. Now, Sir, let me refer to Part X of the Defence of India Rules, Rule 56.

"The Central Government or the Provincial Government may, for the purpose of securing the defence of British India, the public safety, the maintenance of public order or the efficient prosecution of war, by general or special order, prohibit, restrict or impose conditions upon, the holding of or taking part in public processions, meetings or assemblies."

Even going through all the three other parts of this Rule, they do not say that in a matter like this where a book has been printed, that book would come under the mischief of the Defence of India Rules. Therefore, Sir, it is plain that the Sind Government has erred. I might go further and say that the Sind Government has done a most mischievous act and it has done a dangerous act. It is fighting with fire, because the House knows that if Muslims are brave, the Arya Samajists are no less brave. The Arya Samajists

are known to be brave. They have fought to the end on their own religious matters. In a matter like this where the Arya Samajists are concerned on the one side, and the Muslims on the other, the Sind Government should not have come into the picture and taken sides on behalf of Muslims. On this ground alone the Sind Government's action is condemnable. I do not wonder that the Sind Government has been doing all kinds of things, but not other Governments. Hereafter if any agitation is set on foot in other Provinces, I hope other Provincial Governments will be wise enough to consider whether this Act applies, whether this Rule applies and whether it is desirable to invoke the Rules to ban this book on the ground that the contending parties would create a disturbance and thus safety will be jeopardised. I therefore submit that so far as the Sind Government is concerned, I am not at all feeling surprised, because I know what all acts the Sind Government are doing. They are already acting as a Pakistan Province.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) The Honourable Member cannot discuss Sind politics here. This motion is in order owing to the alleged failure on the part of the Government of India to take action under the Defence of India Rules. Sind politics cannot be discussed here.

Mr. Lalchand Navarai: But the Chair has not heard what I was going to say.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) I have heard.

Mr. Lalchand Navarai: I uttered only two words, call it Pakistan. Is it not Pakistan, Sir?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) The question of Pakistan does not arise.

Mr. Lalchand Navarai: Then, I will invite the Chair with great respect to come and see what is happening in Sind. On the floor of the Sind Legislature, they have condemned the Sind Ministry and charged it with corruption, but nothing has been done so far.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) The Sind Ministry is not under discussion on this motion.

Mr. Lalchand Navarai: The Sind Government ought to be brought to its senses.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) Order, order. The Honourable Member ought not to try to indict the Sind Ministry which is not represented here. I would not have admitted this motion but for the fact that the particular order was passed under the Defence of India Act and the Rules made thereunder and I thought that the Government of India might have some thing to say as regards the way the Rules under the Act have been given effect to in the matter.

Mr. Lalchand Navarai: If that is the point that has to be urged, then I have said that the Act does not apply.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) Issue of Pakistan is not there.

Mr. Lalchand Navarai: On the contrary, I submit, it should not be. It would be wise on their part to restrict to local questions. Now, Sir, I am condemning the Sind Government.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): It is the responsibility of the Government of India that is in issue and the Honourable Member must confine his remarks to the responsibility of the Government of India in this matter. I see that the Honourable Member's time is up.

Mr. Lalchand Navarai: But the Chair has taken two minutes of my time and I request that I may be allowed some more time.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): No, the Honourable Member must conclude.

Mr. Lalchand Navarai: Then I will only say that the Central Government is to be condemned because they have not taken care to see that the Sind Government do not exercise their power in an arbitrary way.

Sir Vithal N. Chandavarkar (Bombay Millowners' Association Indian Commerce) Sir, at the outset, I want to make it perfectly clear that whatever I am saying today, does not represent the views of my constituency, I am speaking in my personal capacity. I am neither an Arya Samajist nor an orthodox Hindu. I belong to a family which was outcasted nearly sixty years ago. The only reason why I am taking part in this debate is that I understand this book has been in existence for over sixty or seventy years. I have not read the Chapter which has been banned. But the question is this. Is the Sind Government or any Provincial Government entitled to take action under a measure against a book which has been there for over sixty or seventy years and which has nothing to do with war, under the powers delegated by the Government of India under a measure which was enacted for the purpose of maintaining law and order with special reference to the conduct of the war. If the Government of India feel that there is something very objectionable in that Chapter, then the unilateral action of the Sind Government will not carry us very far. If the Government of India really believe that this Chapter is so obnoxious that it ought not to be there, then, it is high time to see, that as far as this Chapter is concerned, it is banned for the whole country. The Government of India should go further and appoint a Committee to scrutinise all the ancient scriptures or ancient religious texts and to see that anything that is against public policy and morality as understood by us now should be deleted. I refer to Christian, Hindu scriptures and all scriptures because I do not want to hurt the sentiments of any one. Even in my own Hindu scriptures there are sentiments which I consider to be objectionable and obnoxious and against public policy and public morality as we understand them today. Are Government prepared to take action in regard to all such matters? If so, I shall certainly be with them and I might, if invited to, serve on such a committee. I am still awaiting the speech of the Honourable the Home Member but I really cannot understand the unilateral action of the Sind Government in taking this action with regard to a book which has been in existence for 70 years. At present, Sir, I feel inclined to support this motion of adjournment.

Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam (Sirma Valley cum Shillong Non-Muhammadian) Sir, it is unfortunate that the Sind Government has passed this order banning a particular chapter of the Satyarth Prakasha. I will give you a history of this.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) The Honourable Member must address himself to the Government of India. The Sind Government is not here to answer any charge.

Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam: In June 1943 the Sind Government stated in a communique that it was considering the question whether the Satyarth Prakasha should be proscribed or not, but there was a tremendous agitation against it and after that the Sind Government again issued a communique in July 1943 stating that they had no intention of taking any step against the Satyarth Prakasha. But now it is strongly enough that owing to some frantic efforts on the part of some fanatic gentlemen of the Muslim League, the Sind Government have passed this order. This Satyarth Prakasha, Sir, is a book of criticisms just as many other books in Hindu and Muslim society are. I have gone through the whole of the 14th chapter but I have not seen any scurrilous attack either on Muhammad or on Islam. General criticism is there just as in many other books. In the Bible Christ said something against the Pharisees and the scribes. Should the Bible be banned on that account? There are other sects of Hindus on which Swami Dayanand has passed strictures. The thing is that in books of criticism the author is given freedom of expression and we give every historian, writer or critic some freedom of expression. The Holy Koran too has said many things against infidels. I have got a book with me here to show how Muhammad spoke against non-Muslims.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) I think the Honourable Member should not spread the trouble any further.

Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam: I should like to say how the order of the Sind Government hurts the feelings of the Arya community. And the Central Government should take steps about it. Sir, the point is, if there were so much in the book that is objectionable, what were the Government of India doing so long? Why could not they take action earlier? I think there is nothing in the book which can endanger public safety or induce riots among Hindus, Muslims and Arya Samajists. Therefore, I feel that the Sind Government had no business to take such action which will introduce new enmity among the communities. In this country we all should be tolerant, there are so many books, communities and sects, no one ought to fight against another because of the literature which expresses the view of a particular sect. The Sind Government has taken this step, because the Muslim League in 1943 passed a Resolution at Lahore urging the Sind Government and the Governments of other Muslim majority provinces to take measures against the Satyarth Prakasha; otherwise they had no reason to take this step according to the Defence of India Rules. These rules have been read out by my honourable friend Mr. Lalchand Navalrai and also referred to by my Honourable friend Bhai Parmanand. There is nothing in the book to entitle the Sind Government to ban any portion of it. Sir, you know the reformer Martin Luther said many things against King Henry VIII. The great Muslim leader and reformer Sir Syed Ahmad Khan also said something very much against the Muslims. In one passage speaking about the description of paradise in holy Koran, he says "If this is Paradise our brothers are without exaggeration a thousand times more decent." That was his criticism. What I say is that people are always doing it and why should Government go out of its way to ban something here and something there? My Muslim friends in Sind may go to a law-court and get a judgment about this book, why should the Sind Government ban it? It is high time for the Government of India to intervene, otherwise there will be riots and fighting. This order under defence of India Rule will help to disturb peace.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) Have the Government of India powers under the Defence of India Act to issue orders in such cases, is the question under consideration?

Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam: Yes, Sir, the Government of India has the power of supervision. The Government of India can say that the Act and the rules have been misapplied and the order should be withdrawn.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: The Government of India can issue.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) The Honourable Member need not prompt him from there.

Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam: Sir, the Muslim League has also asked other provincial Governments like the Bengal and Assam Governments to pass similar orders. So the danger is there. If the Government of India do not take action in time it may be too late. Therefore, in the interest of the country and its people and in the interest of humanity they should intervene in time. This is a question of freedom of religion and freedom of expression any my friends of the European Group should join with us and demand necessary action from Government. My Congress friends stand for the sacred principles of liberty and freedom. I call upon them to say whether the freedom of religious belief and freedom of expression will be given to the author of Satyarth Prakasha which guides the actions of thousands of Arya Samajists in this country. All religions should be free to publish books and criticize the views of their opponents. My Muslim friend over there says there are obscene things in Satyarth Prakasha. There are obscene passages in many religious books. There are obscene passages in Koran. I can show you the passages now and here. Are you therefore going to ban the Koran?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) I think the Honourable Member should confine himself to the book referred to in the motion.

Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam: Sir, I will not take any more time. I have expressed myself strongly because I feel strongly. I would request the Government of India to come to the help of the people and take such action as

[Mr Ananga Mohan Dam]

is necessary under the law. In the name of the Defence of India Rule the action of the Sind Government will invite more troubles in India. Sir, with these few words I support the motion moved by Bhai Parmanandji.

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie (Home Member) I thank you, Sir, for your ruling that we are not discussing the politics of Sind, but that does not make it any easier for me to know what to say because the action that we have been condemned for is the action of the Sind Government. It has been alleged that we could come to the conclusion that it was illegal. One Honourable Member said that the Government of India should come to the conclusion, if they examine the matter, that the action of Sind Government was illegal. Supposing they did. The Sind Government thinks one thing, we think another. There is nothing we could do really.

Sir, this action of the Government of Sind was taken presumably under Rule 41 of the Defence of India Rules. They banned the printing and publishing, as far as I understand it, of a fresh edition of Satyarth Prakasha. They did not take any action under 99(A) of the Criminal Procedure Code as they might have done and confiscate all copies of that book. There is no question of stopping the circulation of it. What was done was stopping the issue of a new edition. It was said that that action was illegal. Rule 41 gives power to prohibit or regulate the making or publishing of any document or class of documents, and that can be done in the interests of public safety and public order.

One Honourable Member laid it down that action could not be taken under the Defence of India Rules except for the defence of British India and the prosecution of the war. That, Sir, is not so. In sub-section (1) of section 2 of the Act—not the Rules, the Act as it was passed in this House—it is laid down that the Central Government may make rules for securing the defence of British India, the public safety, the maintenance of public order, or the prosecution of the war. That was debated on the floor of this House and an amendment was moved. That amendment for the deletion of the words 'public order' was negatived. Therefore it is clear that action can be taken under the Defence Rules for the maintenance of public order. The Government of Sind have ostensibly passed their orders in the interest of public peace.

Sardar Sant Singh (West Punjab Sikh) How was it affected?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: It is not for me to say whether that order was justified, or not justified. It is not for any one in this House to say, least of all it is for my Honourable friend, Sardar Sant Singh, to say. No one can say unless he is in Sind and responsible for the administration of Sind. But it needs no elaboration for me to point out that religious contentions do in this country imperil public order. This very new edition of this Book has resulted in disorder in Lahore.

Then I come to the suggestion of my Honourable friend, Sir Vithal Chandavarkar, that the Government of India should, if this Book is objectionable, take action and ban it throughout the whole country. That, Sir, shows, I think, complete misapprehension of the position. These books are not banned in a case of this sort, because the book is in itself objectionable. That is not the case. Action was taken because in this case the printing of this book was held to imperil public order. There is no judgment passed on the book in one way or another. It may be that public peace in Sind is imperilled and public peace elsewhere is not imperilled. What would be the immediate reaction if we were to ban this book throughout India? What justification would we have to do it? If this is not likely to cause trouble in the Punjab, Madras, Assam, Bengal and so on, why should we take action to ban it? The Honourable Member who moved this motion at once raised the question to an all-India level. Up till now it was merely provincial, and the circumstances which have led the Government of Sind to take this action are peculiar to Sind. I am very much afraid that the whole of this debate, particularly because of the way it has been carried on, may do great harm. I am sure that the Mover has done no good

to the cause that he has at heart I would like to make it quite clear that this trouble, as far as I know, has necessitated action only in Sind. There is not the least chance of the Government of India taking any action unless there is an extraordinary change in the circumstances. Unless this happens it is quite impossible to envisage the Government of India following my Honourable friend Sir Chandavarkar's advice and banning this book throughout India. Action of this sort is only taken in the interest of public peace and that is the responsibility of Provincial Governments.

One word more. What would be the result if the Government of India were to interfere in the day to day law and order administration of the provinces? The first thing they would have to do would be to accept the responsibility for the peace of these provinces. Now, whether you do that on paper, or not, one thing is certain that the consequences of breakdown of law and order fall first and principally on the Provincial Government. It is the provincial Police and magistracy that have to quell these disturbances and may lose their lives in doing so. The three consequences of civil disturbance, the break down of supplies, the interruption of communications and destruction of property also fall chiefly on Provincial Governments. The Government of India cannot, in fact, accept the responsibility for law and order in the provinces. It is for this reason, I say, that the consequences of disorder fall on Provincial Governments, that law and order has now been transferred to Provincial Governments. Any interference in that situation would most seriously affect law and order throughout the country. It is of the highest importance that the responsibility of Provincial Governments for law and order should in no way be blurred. For these reasons, I ask the House to reject this motion.

Sardar Sant Singh: Sir, I would like to congratulate you on giving that ruling and confining this debate to a narrow issue, which is really the issue on which the mover of the motion had concentrated. And I wish, Sir, you had been in the Chair when my Honourable friend, Shakh Fazl-i-Haq Piracha, made his speech which went beyond the issue, with the result that he gave expression to certain sentiments which are really irrelevant to the issue before the House and unnecessarily offensive.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) I hope the Honourable Member will not indulge in anything irrelevant.

Maulana Zafar Ali Khan (East Central Punjab Muhammadan) Does Sardar Sant Singh know that Guru Nanak has been abused in Satyarth Prakash?

Sardar Sant Singh: I know much more than Maulana Sahib does. I know how to express my feelings. I have been longer here than Maulana Sahib has been.

Sir, I have listened with interest the reply given by the Honourable the Home Member to this motion. The issue is really a narrow one. That issue is "what is the Government of India to do in the matter where a Provincial Government abuses the powers delegated to them under the Defence of India Rules?" Particularly if Provincial administration acts in a manner which is prejudicial to a large section of the people of that province. If I have understood the Honourable the Home Member correctly, he has taken this position. He says, 'Presumably the action has been taken under Rule 41 of the Defence of India Rules'. I am inclined to agree with him that presumably the action had been taken under this Rule. But from an Honourable Member who

S.P.M. represents the Government of India, the House does not expect and rightly does not expect that he should base his case on presumptions. He should have made enquiries from the Government of Sind to find out under what rule they took the action and if they took the action under Rule 41 he should have been prepared to say that they actually took the action under that rule. However, that is not the very important point. Part (b) of the rule to which the Honourable the Home Member referred says—

"Prohibit or regulate the making or publishing of any document or class of document or of any matter relating to a particular subject or class of subject or the use of any press as defined in the India Press Emergency Powers Act 1931."

[Sardar Sant Singh]

This rule gives power under certain conditions. Those conditions are contained in clause 1 of this Rule, viz.,

"The Central Government or the Provincial Government may for the purpose of securing the defence of British India, the public safety, the maintenance of public order or the efficient prosecution of war by order, etc., etc."

Thus before part (b) of clause 1 can be applied the conditions precedent which are stated in clause 1 of the Rule must exist. Now, here again the Honourable the Home Member has taken a very convenient line. He says, presumably in the interests of public order this was done. When I asked him how the public order was affected thereby, he had no information to give to the House. He did not care to enquire from the Sind Government what were their grounds for believing that the public security was affected thereby. He has not enlightened the House on that point. It is very convenient to say that this rule applies—it can be made to apply to such a case as to a petition writer who may be asked to write a complaint for the Court that a certain woman has been enticed away for some immoral purpose, therefore under Rule 41 the petition writer should not write this. If the legal powers are to be twisted into a convenient shape for the purpose of injuring the religious prejudices of a particular community then the object of law is frustrated. It is a common knowledge that in a Court of law the lawyers of both sides make plausible arguments for their clients. But for the Government of India, who has taken the responsibility for administering this country and has got extraordinary executive powers vested in them, to justify the use of those powers merely on presumptions and on lack of information, is a thing which is unheard of in any democratic government and which cannot satisfy the democratic conscience of anybody much less it should satisfy that of the Honourable the Home Member.

This motion has been admitted in this House on the ground of the responsibility of the Government of India. You, Sir, as the Honourable President were right when you put the question: What can the Government of India do in the matter? It is this. After reviewing the working of the Defence of India Rules by the Provincial Governments, they can take action under two heads. First by issuing instructions to the Governors to see that the minorities are protected under those minority safeguards in the Government of India Act and that they enjoy freedom of religious worship. I may not agree with a particular sort of worship of a particular religion.

Maulana Zafar Ali Khan at the beginning asked me about the references to the Sikh Gurus in that chapter. I am aware of them. I do not agree with them. I am opposed to them. My community has condemned that portion. But does it mean to say that when we are developing democratic institutions in this country, when we are learning toleration towards one another and allowing freedom of worship to everybody I should not allow freedom of worship to a certain section because I happen to disagree with it or because its criticism of my religion is intolerable?

Maulana Zafar Ali Khan: I do not agree with you.

Sardar Sant Singh: You will not agree with the prejudiced spectacles on your nose!

I say with confidence that in the working of the democratic institutions the first essential amongst others is that we should learn to be tolerant towards one another. Without toleration we cannot go on for a minute. The Government of India's responsibility is to invoke the safeguards in the Government of India Act where the freedom of worship and the rights of the minority classes are particularly handed over to the Governor for protection. The second point which the Government of India should note is to issue friendly instructions to the provinces and if they do not listen to this advice then the course is plain that this rule which has been framed by the Central Government should be amended and the power taken away from the Provincial Government and vested in the Central Government. They have the power to amend this rule. Why

allow this rule to stand where they find a gross abuse of power by a Provincial Government?

My friend has said that the peace of Sind may be affected thereby. It does not require a prophet to tell him or to predict that the peace of Sind if it is to be disturbed will be disturbed by the use of this rule rather than by the want of the use of this rule. The book has been there for the last five years of the war. There has been no disturbance. Now, if the Arya Samajists take it in their heads to come and commit violent deeds and to break the law, what power is there for you to say that you will prevent them except by sending them to jail and using your brute force against them? Will the peace of Sind be disturbed or will it be saved? If anyone has paved the way for a disturbance of the peace in Sind it is the Central Government and I can predict without any fear that the peace of Sind will be disturbed by this action unless the Government of India intervenes.

What happened in Hyderabad (Deccan)? There was a similar incident. Thousands of people went to jail to defend their religious rights. I may not agree with those who went to jail. But we cannot shut our eyes to the realities of the situation that it did happen. I understand that the Arya Samajists in the Punjab are greatly disturbed over it and if they begin to break the peace of the land the Government of India cannot sit quietly and say it is the responsibility of the Sind Government.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir (Bombay City Non-Muhammadan Urban) What did you say?

Sardar Sant Singh: They are determined to fight this ban.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: But they are in the Punjab!

Sardar Sant Singh: They will go to Sind to fight it there.

May I ask what is the meaning of the Government of India taking up this attitude that if the peace is disturbed in Sind it will be the responsibility of the Provincial Government and not the Central Government? Will you sit quiet if firing takes place or if more serious breaches of the peace are committed? Will not your war effort suffer thereby and will not the very object of the Defence of India Act be defeated by your silence and condoning of the act of the Sind Government? This is a short-sighted view which no man with the least grain of common sense can afford to take.

Lastly, Sir, I want to say that I do not approve of the attitude of the Congress Party in spitting themselves away when the time comes to test their love of democracy and love of complete independence. They have left their benches what for? Because they are afraid to displease the Muslim League Party. I do not approve of this method of the Party. If there is to be democracy, we should have courage enough to say what we believe to be right and must vote for it, and if a thing is not right we must have the courage to oppose it. This neutrality, which is much less benevolent neutrality, is a thing which ought to be condemned strongly, even so because I have more often to agree with the Congress Party than differ from them.

Therefore, Sir, I think the Government of India will do well even now to hold out an assurance that the Sind Government will be approached to take the right decision and to rescind this order which is full of mischief, and danger, and is calculated to produce class hatred between different communities in India. With these words I support this motion.

Nawab Siddique Ali Khan (Central Provinces and Berar Muhammadan): Sir, it is always very unpleasant to enter into a religious controversy. It is a pity that my Honourable friend Bhai Parmanand thought it proper to table the adjournment motion on an occasion, when we instead of coming closer to each other, are pursuing two different paths which I am sure will never meet.

Let us examine as to why this India-wide agitation is being carried on for the deletion of the objectionable passages in the book in question by the members of the Muslim League and Muslims of different schools of political thought. It is only about a year ago that a resolution was passed in the open session of the All-India Muslim League at Karachi where it was demanded of the Central

[Nawab Siddique Ali Khan] Government (not the Provincial Government as my Honourable friend Mr. Dani said) to prosecute the publishers of this book and to ban chapters 12, 13 and 14, which are devoted to a criticism of Jainism, Buddhism, Christianity and Islam. The language of Chapter 14 is no doubt very offensive, abusive and insulting. Sir, nobody would object to fair criticism but malicious, and provocative attacks on religion, religious beliefs or the Prophets cannot be tolerated. This principle has also been accepted by the Government by the enactment of sec. 295A, Indian Penal Code.

Sir, let us see whether the criticisms levelled against Islam and the whole community fall under the former or the latter category. I shall now, Sir, quote a few passages from Chapter 14.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim). The Honourable Member cannot go into that. That is not the question. The question simply is this: whether the Government of India would not be justified in reviewing the order of the Sind Government prohibiting the publication of a certain book which they consider is likely to lead to a breach of the peace or is otherwise objectionable. The merits of the book in question cannot be discussed.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan (Agra Division Muhammadan Rural). It has been contended, Sir, that it was a religious book and as such has got sanctity. Hence it was that the motion was considered one of public importance and the debate has been allowed to take place in this House. If the book has no sanctity, then it is no more a matter of public importance.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim). I cannot allow any such discussion.

Nawab Siddique Ali Khan: The Honourable the Home Member has just said that the Sind Government had to take action because in their opinion they thought that peace and order could not be maintained there. I want to submit that I wish to show from the passages (I will quote with your permission, Sir) that peace and order can not be maintained in Sind or anywhere else, if these objectionable passages are not deleted.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim). I do not think it is disputed that there are passages in that book which might be considered offensive by particular religious bodies.

Nawab Siddique Ali Khan: My Honourable friend Mr. Dani said that there are no offensive or abusive passages in the book *Satyartha Prakash*.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim). There are, I understand, criticisms of other religions too than Islam. But that is not the question. You cannot possibly go into questions like that.

Nawab Siddique Ali Khan: The other point which I want to raise is this. I have got a book here, which is the authentic translation of the original *Satyartha Prakash*, which was published in the year 1875 and doesn't contain chapters 13 and 14. The Secretary of the Arya Samaj, Lahore, in the introduction says that the Urdu translation of the original book is quite literal and that he has not added anything. Afterwards he says that the fabricated copies of '*Satyartha Prakash*', which are in the market today, deserve to be heaped together and burnt. This opinion has been expressed by the Secretary of the Arya Samaj in the translation published in the year 1912. From this one can conclude that the book is objectionable and the language which is used there is very insulting. I think the Sind Government, as has been said by my Honourable friend Khan Bahadur Shaikh Fazl-i-Haq Piracha, deserves our thanks for taking prompt action in this matter.

Sir, the House will be interested to know that this is not the first time that action has been taken regarding similar offensive books. In the Central Provinces when the late Dr. Raghavendra Rao was the Home Member, some poems were composed which were known as "*Quran ki Gazalen*". He got the composer of these poems prosecuted and copies of the poems were forfeited and the composer was fined. So this is not the first time that a Provincial Government has taken action.

Pandit Nilakantha Das (Orissa Division. Non-Muhammadan): Was it the Setyarth Prakash?

Nawab Siddique Ali Khan: It was a similar book in which abusive language was used against Islam and the Holy Prophet. Sir, I do not think I have anything more to say and I request that the adjournment motion be defeated by this Honourable House.

Several Honourable Members: The question may now be put.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is:

"That the question be now put."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim). Does the Honourable Mover wish to reply?

Bhai Parmanand: No.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is:

"That the Assembly do now adjourn."

The Assembly divided:

AYES—15.

Bhai Parmanand.
Chandavarkar, Sir Vithal N.
Chattopadhyaya, Mr. Amarendra Nath.
Dam, Mr. Ananga Mohan.
Das, Pandit Nilakantha.
Deshmukh, Dr. G. V.
Deshmukh, Mr. Govind V.
Hans Raj, Balseva.

Joishi, Mr. N. M.
Kailash Bihari Lall, Mr.
Lalchand Navalsrai, Mr.
Neogy, Mr. K. C.
Raghubir Narain Singh, Choudhri.
Sant Singh, Sardar.
Sham Lal, Lala.

NOES—68.

Abdul Ghani, Maulvi Muhammad.
Abdullah, Mr. H. M.
Ahmad Nawas Khan, Major Nawab Sir.
Ambedkar, The Honourable Dr. B. R.
Asher Ali, Mr. Muhammad.
Asizul Hogue, The Honourable Sir M.
Bentham, The Honourable Sir Edward.
Caroe, Sir Olaf.
Chapman-Mortimer, Mr. T.
Chatterjee, Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C.
Choudhury, Mr. Muhammad Hussain.
Daga, Seth Sander Lall.
Dalal, Dr. Sir Ratanji Dinshaw.
Dalal, The Honourable Sir Ardesbir.
Ezekiel Salt, Mr. H. A. Sather H.
Fazl-i-Haq Piracha, Khan Bahadur Sheikh.
Ghiasuddin, Mr. M.
Gwilt, Mr. E. L. C.
Habibur Rahman, Dr.
Habibur Rahman, Khan Bahadur Sheikh.
Haider, Khan Bahadur Shamsuddin.
Imam, Mr. Saiyid Haider.
Imaail Ahkhan, Kunwer Hajee.
Imaail Khan, Hajee Chowdhury Muhammad.
Jehangir, Sir Cowasjee.
Joishi, Mr. D. S.
Kamaluddin Ahmad, Shams-ul-Ulema.
Krishnamoorthy, Mr. E. S. A.
Lalljee, Mr. Hoosenbhoy A.

Liaquat Ali Khan, Nawabzada Muhammad.
Mahr Shah, Nawab Sahibzada Sir Sayed.
Muhammad.
Miller, Mr. C. C.
Munazzam Sahib Bahadur, Mr. Muhammad.
Mudahar, The Honourable Dewan Bahadur.
Sir A. Ramaswami.
Mudie, The Honourable Sir Francis.
Murtaza Sahib Bahadur, Maulvi Syed.
Nauman, Mr. Muhammad.
Raisman, The Honourable Sir Jeremy.
Rao, Dr. V. K. R. V.
Raza Ali, Sir Syed.
Roy, The Honourable Sir Asoka.
Sethna, Mr. D. P.
Shabhan, Khan Bahadur Mian Ghulam Kadir.
Muhammad.
Shoobert, Mr. W. H.
Siddique Ali Khan, Nawab.
Siva Raj, Rao Bahadur N.
Spence, Sir George.
Stokes, Mr. H. G.
Sultan Ahmed, The Honourable Sir.
Thakur Singh, Capt.
Tyson, Mr. J. D.
Umar Aiy Shah, Mr.
Yamin Khan Sir Muhammad.
Zafar Ali Khan, Maulana.
Zia Uddin Ahmad, Dr. Sir.

The motion was negatived.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Wednesday, the 8th November, 1944.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Wednesday, 8th November, 1944

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber of the Council House at Eleven of the Clock, Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdul Rahim) in the Chair.

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(a) ORAL ANSWERS

INSTALLATION OF KARACHI RADIO STATION

157. *Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state whether the Honourable Member's attention has been drawn to the paragraph appearing on page 118 of the *Indian Information*, dated August 1, 1944, about the Karachi Radio Station to the effect that the project has been held over owing to technical difficulties? Will the Honourable Member be pleased to specify them briefly?

(b) Is the Honourable Member aware that the Secretary in the Department of Information and Broadcasting informed me on the 17th March last that owing to the preoccupation of the Department with other heavy commitments connected with the War and lack of suitable house for use as a Radio Transmitting and Studio building at Karachi, the installation will be delayed?

(c) Is the Honourable Member also aware that the Secretary of his Department in his earlier letter to me on the 5th August, 1943, stated that if no suitable building was forthcoming at Karachi, the Government of India may put up a building of their own?

(d) Is it not a fact that all commitments for extension of the Delhi Radio Station are now complete? Is it now proposed to start installations at Karachi? If not when is it proposed to take the matter in hand?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: (a) Yes. The difficulties arise out of the depletion of the technical staff owing to the installation of a number of new transmitters including two of 100 kw and the pre-occupation of the remaining staff with the installation of some more transmitters and also then being unable to remodel the 0.25 Transmitter into a 1 kw Transmitter due to the present war conditions.

(b) Yes.

(c) The Honourable Member is presumably referring to the letter of the 25th August 1943. The letter clearly explained that the Government of India may put up a building of their own only when work in connection with the installation of the transmitter starts.

(d) The reply to the first two parts of this part of the question is in the negative. As regards the last part, plans for the post war development of Broadcasting in India are being prepared and the installation of radio stations including a station at Karachi will be taken into consideration as part of the general plan.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: May I ask if the Honourable Member has seen the debates in which three of the Honourable Member's predecessors made a promise for a radio station at Karachi and yet it has not yet been installed?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: I have seen this promise.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Last time the Honourable Member said in reply to a question that the installation at Delhi was occupying the attention of the Government. Now that the installation has been completed, will the Honourable Member fulfil his own promise?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: I am prepared to do this provided the Sind Government is prepared to take the 25 transmitter.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: Will the Honourable Member include Nagpur also in his plan as it is a very important station?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: Certainly.

INDIAN KINGS COMMISSIONED OFFICERS ENLISTED FROM INDIA

158. *Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Will the War Secretary be pleased to state as to how many Indian King's Commissioned Officers have been enlisted in the fighting forces from India, provincewise, since the 1st January, 1943, together with their grades and emoluments?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: Presumably the Honorable Member is referring to Emergency Commissioned Indian Officers of the Indian Army.

The number of those commissioned during the period 1st January 1943 to the 31st August 1944, was 5,756, including 1,960 Medical Officers. I regret that this information is not available by Provinces.

Of these officers, excluding Medical Officers, 560 have been promoted to the rank of Lieutenant, 33 to the rank of Captain and 15 to the rank of Major. As regards their emoluments, a statement has been laid on the table.

Statement showing rates of pay and allowances of Indian commissioned officers

Ranks	Rates of pay	
	Unmarried Rs p m	Married Rs p m
2nd Lieutenant	370	450
Lieutenant	410	490
Lieutenant after 3 years' service	440	520
Captain	480	610
Captain after 3 years' service as such	500	630
Captain after 11 years' service	530	660
Captain after 14 years' service	620	750
Major	765	850
Major after 22 years' service	865	950
Lieutenant-Colonel	1,090	1,145

2 Married officers serving overseas and in "non-family" areas where their families are not permitted to go, receive separation allowance at the following rates —

	Rs p m
2nd Lieutenant	40
Lieutenant	
Captain	
Major	
Lieutenant-Colonel	120

3 Indian commissioned officers serving overseas receive expatriation allowance at the rate of colonial allowance admissible to British officers of the British Army. The rates of expatriation allowance for certain areas are —

	Rs p m
Ceylon	75
Persia & Iraq	120
Egypt	70

Unmarried officers serving in India and in areas overseas where no expatriation allowance is admissible receive a special allowance at the following rates —

	Rs p m.
2nd Lieutenant	35
Lieutenant	20
Captain until completion of 11 years' service	20

4 A field allowance of Rs 30 per mensem is also admissible to officers serving in areas declared as "field allowance areas". These are generally the forward areas.

5 Officers serving in technical corps like the Corps of Indian Engineers, Royal Indian Army Service Corps, Indian Army Ordnance Corps, Corps of Indian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, receive corps pay at the following rates —

	Rs p m
2nd Lieutenant and Lieutenant	45
Captain	70
Major	115
Lieutenant-Colonel	160

6 Officers serving in staff appointments receive rates of pay as follows —

	Single Rs p m	Married Rs p. m.
General Staff Officer III	700	830
General Staff Officer II	1,000	1,130
General Staff Officer I	1,350	1,510

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Was any separate record kept of the provinces from which these officers were recruited?

Mr. O. M. Trivedi: So far as I am aware, there is no separate record, and in order to get the information, I will have to look up the applications of the candidates concerned.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: May I ask whether the figures given by the Honourable Member also include the officers in the Royal Navy and the Air Force?

Mr. O. M. Trivedi: No, Sir. I said "Presumably the Honourable Member is referring to Emergency Commissioned Indian Officers of the Indian Army." It does not include the Indian Officers in the Royal Indian Navy and the Indian Air Force.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Can the Honourable Member give the figures of Commissioned officers in the Royal Indian Navy and the Indian Air Force?

Mr. O. M. Trivedi: I shall be very glad to do so if the Honourable Member will put a question. Even if the Honourable Member will not put a question, I will communicate the information to him.

CONTINUANCE OF HUR TROUBLE IN SIND

159. *Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: (a) Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state what the legal responsibilities of the Central Government are in case the civic security in a province is in danger?

(b) Have Government taken any account from the Sind Government after the withdrawal of Martial Law, with regard to the welfare and safety of the community from the ravages of Hurs and allied culprits who not only attack villages but cause serious breaches in canals, flooding and desolating the country?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) The primary responsibility is on the Provincial Government. The Central Government, by virtue of war-time provisions, have certain powers of control by way of Legislation and direction.

(b) The Central Government are kept informed of happenings in Sind, as in other provinces. They have no reason to suppose that the Sind Government have failed in their responsibility since the withdrawal of martial law.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Is it not a fact that so many murders and dacoities have been committed by the Hurs in the Sind Province? If so, may I know why the Honourable Member is not interfering in the matter?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member is arguing.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Will the Honourable Member inquire as to what is happening in the province of Sind and then do something on the responsibility of the Central Government? Will the Central Government always leave it to the Provincial Government even if there are disturbances? I want a reply.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member has heard the question but he is not replying.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: May I ask if the occurrence of crime is the test of the efficiency of a Provincial Government or the overcoming of the crime is the real test of their efficiency?

(No answer.)

HOME DEPARTMENT MEMORANDUM ON REPRESENTATION OF MINORITY COMMUNITIES IN POSTS FILLED BY PROMOTION

160. *Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: (a) Will the Honourable the Home Member, be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Home Department had issued a memorandum in September, 1942, on the subject of representation of minority communities in posts filled by promotion? If so, will the Honourable Member be pleased to lay a copy of the same on the table of the House?

(b) Has this memorandum been circulated to the staff affected? If not, is it proposed to do so now? If not, why not?

[8TH Nov 1944]

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) Yes, presumably the reference is to Home Department office memorandum No 23/1/39-E-ts (S), dated the 4th September, 1942. A copy of which is laid on the table.

(b) No, the instructions in the memorandum are meant only for the guidance of the authorities making promotions.

No 23/1/39-E-ts (S)

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

HOME DEPARTMENT

New Delhi, the 4th September, 1942

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT — Representation of minority communities in posts filled by promotion

The undersigned is directed to invite a reference to this Department office memorandum No 23/1/39-E-ts (S), dated the 16th August 1941 and to say that after considering the views expressed by the Departments on the proposals contained in that Office Memorandum it has been decided to adopt the following principles:

(a) There should be no indefiniteness about the normal mode of filling vacancies nor any uncertainty about the proportions to be filled by direct recruitment and by promotion. The practice where it is not sufficiently well defined should be settled for the future.

(b) No variation in existing rules or practice which would have the effect of increasing the present proportion of vacancies filled by promotion nor any departure from the fixed determined proportions should be made without the orders of Government.

(c) Except in certain classes of appointments which must be defined as open only to selection, seniority must as a general rule be given its due weight and good men should not be passed over by their juniors merely because the juniors might do other things being equal, be judged to be better than they.

(d) Without prejudice to the position of the War Department vis-à-vis Naval, Army and Air Headquarters, each Department should be responsible not only for the accuracy of the communal returns from each of its Attached and Subordinate Offices, both in form and substance but also for submitting a consolidated return for all its offices to the Home Department by a specified date each year accompanied by brief remarks on any defects or departures from the rules that may have come to its notice. It should be the duty of the Home Department not to check the returns of other Departments but to consolidate them further without delay and review the general working of the rules as disclosed by the returns.

2. In order to comply with principle (c) Departments will have to prepare lists of appointments which may be filled only by selection of the best candidates available. So far as posts in the Secretariat Ministerial Staff are concerned the list will be prepared by Home Department after consulting the other Departments.

3. As regards (d) the Departments are requested to submit to Home Department consolidated returns for 1941 as soon as possible and thereafter by 1st April of each year.

H K CHAINANT

Deputy Secretary to the Govt. of India

* STATEMENT ON PROGRESS OF WAR

161. *Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Will the War Secretary please lay on the table a statement on the progress of the War during the months of August, September and October?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: I would refer the Honourable Member to the statement laid on the table in reply to Mr. Lalchand Navalrai's starred question No 61 on the 3rd November, 1944.

CANDIDATES EXAMINED BY GENERAL HEADQUARTERS SELECTION BOARDS

162. *Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: (a) Does the War Secretary propose to lay on the table a statement showing the number of candidates examined by each of the four General Headquarter Selection Boards, and the number of candidates declared to be successful? What is the percentage of passes by each Board, and by all the Boards combined?

(b) Is it not a fact that nearly all the candidates examined by the General Headquarter Selection Board were examined by a preliminary Board—provincial or otherwise? What is the reason for the difference in the estimate of the primary and final Selection Boards?

(c) Have the Government in the Army Department examined the method of psychiatrists and psychologists? Have the Government in the interest of economy and efficiency considered the proposal that the test of psychologists and psychiatrists should be applied at the beginning and not at the end?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: (a) As regards the first part, it would not be in the interests of security to reveal the actual number of candidates appearing before and accepted by the General Headquarters Selection Boards, of which there are now seven. The percentage rates of acceptance by each Board for the year ended the 31st August 1944 are as follows—

No. 1 Board—29.4 per cent
No. 2 Board—26.9 per cent
No. 3 Board—30.8 per cent
No. 4 Board—24.3 per cent
No. 5 Board—32.2 per cent
No. 6 Board—24.9 per cent

The average acceptance rate is 28 per cent.

No. 7 Board has been excluded as this is intended only for candidates for the Indian Air Force. In the few months that this Board has been operating, the acceptance rate has been 11.8 per cent. This comparatively low percentage is partly due to the higher standard required of officers in the General Duties Branch and partly to the policy whereby large numbers of candidates are sent direct to No. 7 General Headquarters Selection Board without a preliminary interview.

(b) The answer to the first part is in the negative. The proportion of civilian candidates who have passed a preliminary interview has been less than 50 per cent for some time past. As regards the latter part the preliminary interview boards have no accurate objective means of assessing the qualities of a candidate and therefore pass him to the General Headquarters Selection Board if there is the slightest chance of success. Only the obviously unsuitable candidates are weeded out by the preliminary boards.

(c) Yes, Sir, Government have thoroughly examined the question and are satisfied that the methods now being used are the best desirable and are promoting the high standard of individual required for the Defence Services, consistent with economy and efficiency in the machinery of selection.

Dr. Sir Ziauddin Ahmad: With reference to the latter part of (c), may I ask whether the Government have considered that those tests of psychiatrists ought to be applied at the time the candidates go to the Provincial Board that is in the beginning and not in the end?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: We have considered this but it has not been possible to adopt this because of the limited number of psychiatrists and psychologists available.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: With reference to parts (a) and (b), will the Honourable Member say whether any police reports are called for before final selection is made of each candidate?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: The G. H. Q. Selection Boards do not call for any police report.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: Is there any machinery which sifts the number of candidates who appear before the Boards?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: There is no machinery to do so before the candidate appears before the G. H. Q. Board for selection.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: May I know if political influence does not play any part in the matter of selection or rejection of a candidate?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: I can assure the Honourable Member that political considerations do not play the slightest part in the deliberations of G. H. Q. Selection Boards.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: Is the Honourable Member prepared to examine any specific case if it is brought to his notice?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: Most certainly.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: May I know whether at any stage of the selection reference is made to the police for a report?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: Yes, the suitability of a candidate for the service is taken into account after he is selected by the Selection Board.

Sardar Sant Singh: Before appointment is made, is there any stage at which the antecedents of the candidate are enquired into by the police from the parents in the place where he comes from?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: Yes.

Sardar Sant Singh: Is it confined to the antecedents of the candidate himself or to the antecedents of his parents and relatives also?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: So far as I am aware, it is confined to the antecedents of the candidate himself.

COMMUNAL COMPOSITION IN HIGHER POSTS OF THE HOME DEPARTMENT

163. *Sardar Sant Singh: (a) Will the Honourable the Home Member please state the number of posts carrying monthly salaries of Rs 500 to Rs 750, Rs 750 to Rs 1,000, Rs 1,000 to Rs 1,500 and Rs 1,500 and upwards in the Home Department?

(b) How many of these posts are held by (i) Europeans, (ii) Anglo-Indians, (iii) Hindus, (iv) Sikhs, (v) Muslims, and (vi) others, under each category, separately?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) and (b) A statement which gives substantially the information required by the Honourable Member is laid on the table.

Statement showing the communal composition of Gazetted and non-Gazetted Officers in the Home Department drawing pay in the salary groups of Rs 500-749, Rs 750-999, Rs 1,000-1,499 and Rs 1,500-upward

Community	Salary Groups				Total
	Rs 500-749	Rs 750-999	Rs 1,000-1,499	Rs 1,500-upward	
Europeans		1	2	6	9
Hindus	6	NW	1	3	10
Muslims	2	NW	NW	NW	2
Anglo-Indians	1	NW	1	NW	2
Sikhs	1	NW	NW	NW	1
Others	1	NW	NW	1	2
Total	11	1	4	10	26

Sardar Sant Singh: Before this statement was made, did the Honourable Member take into consideration the circular issued by the Department that the Sikhs included in these are those who are bona fide Sikhs?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: Who am I to distinguish between them?

COMMUNAL COMPOSITION IN HIGHER POSTS OF CERTAIN OFFICES UNDER THE FINANCE DEPARTMENT

164. *Sardar Sant Singh: (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state the number of posts carrying monthly salaries of Rs 500 to 750, Rs 750 to 1,000, Rs 1,000 to Rs 1,500 and Rs 1,500 and above in his Department including (i) the Central Board of Revenue, (ii) the Inspectorate of Customs and Central Excises, (iii) the Office of the Chief Chemist, Central Revenues, (iv) the Auditor General in India, (v) the Director of Railway Audit, (vi) the Accountant and Deputy Accountant Generals, Posts and Telegraphs, (vii) the Accountant General, Central Revenues, (viii) the Chief Controller of Supply Accounts, (ix) the Director of Audit, Defence Services, (x) the Military Defence Department, (xi) the Supply Finance Department, (xii) the office of the Additional Financial Adviser, Supply Finance, and (xiii) the office of the Joint Financial Adviser, Supply Finance? (Please give figures separately for each of the above section)?

(b) What number of posts under each category in each Section is held by (i) Europeans, (ii) Anglo-Indians, (iii) Hindus, (iv) Muslims, (v) Sikhs, and (vi) others?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House in due course

SIKH REPRESENTATION IN HIGHER POSTS OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

165. *Sardar Sant Singh: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Planning and Development please state what steps he proposes to take in organising his new Department to grant adequate share to the Sikh community in posts carrying monthly salaries of Rs. 500 to Rs. 750, Rs. 750 to Rs. 1,000, Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 1,500, and Rs. 1,500 and above in his Department?

(b) Will the Honourable Member please give assurance that he would give personal attention to this aspect of the personnel of his staff so that the Sikh community should have no grievance in this matter of selection?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: (a) and (b) I may assure the Honourable Member that in making appointments every endeavour is being and will be made by me to secure adequate representation of all communities subject of course to candidates with the requisite qualifications being available

CONVERSATIONS WITH HIS MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT *RE* STERLING BALANCES

166. *Sardar Sant Singh: Will the Honourable the Finance Member please make a statement as to the conversation Mr Deshmukh, Governor of the Reserve Bank and the Honourable Member had with His Majesty's Government as to Sterling balances in England?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I would refer the Honourable Member to my reply to Starred Question No. 66 asked by Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad on the 3rd November, 1944

PROJECTS POSSIBLE ONLY UNDER NATIONAL GOVERNMENT

167. *Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Will the Honourable Member for Planning and Development be pleased to state

(a) which are those things which a National Government alone could do and not the present Central Government as stated by the Honourable Member in the course of replies to journalists at a recent Press Conference?

(b) whether such things will be left out from planning until the National Government is established in India? Will the Honourable Member enlighten the House on this subject?

(c) whether the booklet which the Honourable Member proposed to bring out is ready? If so, will it be placed on the table of the House, and if it is not yet ready, when should it be expected to be out?

(d) which large private industries he contemplates in his post-war reconstruction plan which could be helped and encouraged by Government with sufficient Government grants like those of Tatas, in view of the present economic condition of the country?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: (a) and (b) When the Plan is in full operation large scale measures involving compulsion and interference with the established habits of the people will have to be put into force. Such measures could only be carried out by a Government having the full support and goodwill of the people behind them

(c) The booklet to which I referred is the Second Report on Reconstruction Planning which has recently been issued and a copy of which I laid on the table of the House on Friday, the 3rd November

(d) It is proposed to set up panels to deal with the questions of almost all the important industries such as iron and steel, heavy and light engineering, manufacture of automobiles, aircraft, heavy and light chemicals, electrical and other machinery, non-ferrous industries, textiles, plastics, etc

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: May I know whether in the formulation of these plans, the Government consult some responsible people in India?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: Yes, Sir

Mr. Lalchand Navarai: With reference to part (d) may I know whether the Honourable Member has taken into consideration any private industries which are suitable to be given grants so that they may develop like the Tatas?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshr Dalal: The question of the exact grants or protection to be given to the different industries will come up as the plan gradually evolves. Such a question has not yet come before the Government.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Is it the intention of the Government of India to eliminate altogether the Provincial Governments and formulate industrial planning direct?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshr Dalal: I can assure the Honourable Member that it is not the intention of the Government to eliminate the Provincial Governments at all. Plans are being worked out in full agreement and co-operation with Provincial Governments and without in any way encroaching upon their autonomy.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: May I know whether the Provincial Governments can go ahead with their own planning or have their schemes to be considered and approved by the Government of India?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshr Dalal: The plans which are now being formulated by the Provincial Governments will be taken into account by the Central Government and a co-ordinated plan for the whole country will be put into force.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I know at what stage the Government of India propose to consult the Legislature or any one of its committees in the matter of evolving these plans and carrying them out?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshr Dalal: This is a matter which will come up in connection with the Resolution of Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad and it will be considered at that time.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Will the plans prepared by the Provincial Governments be in the nature of suggestions which the Government of India might alter or amend or will the Provincial Governments have full authority to carry out their own plans?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshr Dalal: Provincial autonomy is not going to be disturbed in any way. It is hoped that in co-operation with the Central Government and perhaps with the financial assistance of the Central Government a co-ordinated plan will be made out.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: I want to press this point. Provincial autonomy ought to be respected in every plan which the Government of India may produce and if it is set aside then there will be chaos.

The Honourable Sir Ardeshr Dalal: I have already assured the Honourable Member that it is not the intention of Central Government in any way to interfere with the autonomy of the Provinces.

Sir Vithel N. Chandavarkar: Is it the intention of Government to bring the Indian States also into the picture?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshr Dalal: Yes, Sir.

Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali: With reference to part (d) may I know whom the private industrialists have to approach, the Provincial Government or the Central Government?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshr Dalal: Both, Sir.

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Salt: In view of the supreme importance of this subject will the Honourable Member see that copies of these reports are placed at the disposal of each Member of the House?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshr Dalal: If possible, I shall try to do so.

ANTI-EROSION MEASURES FOR SIND AND OTHER PROVINCES

†168. **Mr. Lalchand Navarai:** (a) In taking effective anti-erosion measures for the future well-being of India, has the attention of the Honourable Member for Planning and Development been drawn to the constant recurrence of such happenings on the Indus in the portion which runs through the Sind Province

† Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner having exhausted his quota

and which cause immense loss and damage to crops and affect the food products not only of Sind but even of other provinces deficient in food? If so, what proposals has he on the subject? Have any experts been engaged or are proposed to be engaged to meet the situation?

(b) Does the Honourable Member propose to take this matter in the plan for the agricultural development of the country as a whole? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Ardesir Dalal: The question should be addressed to the Honourable Member for Education, Health and Lands.

PROGRAMME FOR PROVISION OF DEMOBILISED WAR SERVICE MEN

169. *Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh Will the Honourable the Defence Member please state what plans and programmes have been made after February, 1943, by the Government to guarantee freedom from want to demobilised war service men and to absorb the military officers?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: Sir, I lay a statement on the table

Statement

The Second report on Reconstruction planning published by the Reconstruction Committee of Council a copy of which has been placed in the library of the House explains the objectives of Government planning.

2. Leaving aside those persons who have their own lands to which to return or other forms of employment which they can take up without assistance, plans for resettlement of war service men have to cater for four main categories. Firstly those who wish settle on the land, secondly those who wish to take up a profession or business career, thirdly those who wish for employment in the service of Government, and fourthly those who seek employment in industry.

3. To assist those who wish to return to the land the Military authorities have opened Exhibition Rooms and Demonstration Plots at Training Centres. Here volunteers from amongst those who are returning to or wish to settle on the land are being given short courses in improved methods of agriculture including poultry farming, vegetable growing, horticulture and bee-keeping. It is hoped that the men who have been trained in these courses will themselves become instructors and pass on their knowledge to those of their compatriots who are interested either during or before the demobilization period. In the case of cattle in the United Provinces, batches of instructors are already being trained and the aid of Specialists from the Provincial Agricultural and Co-operative Services and it is hoped that similar arrangements will be made with other Provinces in the near future. A staff has also been made in the Punjab. It is proposed to extend this scheme to all Training Centres from which men will be demobilized and when hostilities cease the scheme will be extended to all cantonments where large numbers of troops are stationed.

Most of the Provinces have also offered facilities for training in rural subjects including co-operation and the consolidation of holdings. It is proposed to make as much use of this as possible and of all facilities which exist or have been created at Service establishment both now and during the period between Armistice and Demobilization.

It is not yet possible to say how much land will be made available for settlement either as grants or by purchase at concessional rates but schemes to this end are being examined.

4. Some officers and men have had to interrupt their education or training by volunteering for service. Others have acquired some technical skill which with a little further training would fit them for a career in civil life. The Government have under consideration a scheme for further education and training so that benefit Government's aim in such cases is to provide facilities to enable these men to qualify for a career or to acquire the necessary standard of skill in the chosen trade. The employment of disabled personnel is also engaging the attention of Government. These schemes are still in the planning stage.

5. As regards employment in Government service all Governments—Central, State and Provincial—have made provisions for allotment of vacancies to ex-service men and women in the departments and services which they control. This is being done by reserving a percentage which varies from 70 per cent to 30 per cent of all newly created posts and vacancies which have occurred in existing cadres. In order to facilitate the placing of ex-officers in the senior services all Emergency Commissioned Officers have been asked to state the employment which they wish for when demobilized and the particulars of all those who have asked to be considered for employment in the Civil Services have been passed to the Federal Public Service Commission.

A special organisation is being set up to deal with the problems connected with resettlement in civil life of demobilised medical personnel including Auxiliary Personnel such as Nurses, Nursing Orderlies, Dispensers, Radiographers and Laboratory Assistants. The question of the civil capacities in which Auxiliary medical personnel can be employed, the recognition for civil purposes of any training they have had and the supplementary training necessary to fit them for civil employment is under examination. The provision of facilities for post graduate training of medical officers in the United Kingdom and the United States of America in the Post War years is under active consideration.

6 Particular care will be taken to see that ex-service men receive the fullest consideration of their claims at the hands of Government in all post-war employment schemes. The development of reconstruction plans will naturally provide many openings for employment—both superior and inferior—for ex-service men.

Re-settlement of men and women in industry depends largely upon the good will of employers and their realisation that the qualifications of the servicemen etc. or can be made suitable to their particular branch of industry. Arrangements are already in hand for convincing employers to this end and also to provide the necessary machinery for bringing employers and employees together.

Service trades have been related to civil trades wherever possible, and every effort is being made to persuade industrialists to accept this classification. It may be possible to bring those trained for the special work of the Army, more into line with the needs of civil life by post-demobilisation training in certain lines, in technical training institutions already established or by arranging for men with suitable qualifications to become apprentices.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: Is that a general statement or is it with reference to number of officers as well as other ranks?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: Both. The Honourable Member will find the information he wants there.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: Does it refer to figures in detail or is the plan merely sketchy with reference to the number of persons enlisted and the officers in the army? When is the plan coming into effect? When is the army going to be demobilised?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: The Honourable Member will please read the statement and then ask questions, if necessary.

ANTI-HINDI POLICY OF ALL-INDIA RADIO

170. ***Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh:** (a) Has the attention of the Honourable Member for Information and Broadcasting been drawn to the news published in the *Hindustan Times* of September 11, 1944, under the heading "Anti-Hindi Policy of A. I. R.—Strong condemnation at Lucknow meeting"?

(b) What has the Honourable Member to say regarding the demand for programmes of all categories in Hindi according to the proportionate requirements of the Hindi knowing listeners which is referred to in it?

(c) Whether more than 85 per cent of the items are in Urdu, and whether more than 75 per cent of the items were contributed by Muslim writers?

(d) Have Muslim salutations and phraseology been exclusively adopted by the All-India Radio for all purposes of its Hindustani programmes?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: (a) Yes, and also to a recent publication of the Provincial Sahitya Sammelan, Allahabad, and to a number of representations and comments in the Muslim press.

(b) (c) and (d) Government are considering the whole question of language policy of the All-India Radio and other matters connected with it and hope to announce their decision at an early date.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will Government take steps to consult non-official opinion also before they come to any final decision?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: Certainly.

Sardar Sant Singh: Is the matter being considered departmentally by the Government of India or will representatives of the various communities be taken in order to reach a conclusion satisfactory to all?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: I do not know what is a satisfactory solution, it is very difficult to say. But I propose to consult the representatives of the Hind. Sammelan and the representatives of the Anjuman-i-Taraqqi Urdu and our own standing committee of the two Legislative bodies here.

BADGES DISTINGUISHING MILITARY OFFICERS WITHIN FIGHTING AREA

171. ***Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh:** Will the War Secretary please state if any decision on the question of badges distinguishing military officers who have been actually within the fighting area from those who are sitting in offices, either army or civil, has now been taken?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: The only distinguishing badge so far issued is the Overseas Badge for Viceroy's Commissioned Officers who have returned to

India from Overseas, or from the Burma front. No other officers are eligible for it.

Two War Medals in the form of Stars have been awarded by His Majesty the King. These are the Africa Star, and 1939-43 Star and are granted to officers and other ranks who have served in theatres of war, subject to certain necessary qualifications. Recipients of these awards can be distinguished by the medal ribbons sanctioned for each star.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: I am referring specifically to such persons as are civilians, including Vice-Chancellors.

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: I did not read the question like that.

OMISSION OF MR. JINNAH'S ID MESSAGE IN ALL-INDIA RADIO NEWS BROADCASTS

172. *Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait: (a) Is the Honourable Member for Information and Broadcasting aware that both Mr. Jinnah and Mr. Gandhi issued messages for the last Id-ul-Fitr?

(b) Is it a fact that the All-India Radio news broadcasts on the morning of the 20th September in English, Urdu and Gujarati mentioned Mr. Gandhi's message but totally suppressed Mr. Jinnah's? If so, why?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: (a) Yes.

(b) The facts are that both Mr. Jinnah's and Mr. Gandhi's Id messages were broadcast. Mr. Jinnah's message was issued on the evening of the 18th September, was received through the A P I on the night of the 18th/19th and broadcast on the morning of the 19th September. Mr. Gandhi's message was issued on the evening of the 19th September, was received through the A P I on the night of the 19th/20th and broadcast on the morning of the 20th September. The question of suppressing Mr. Jinnah's message on the 20th September does not, therefore, arise.

FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS DURING AND AFTER WAR BETWEEN INDIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES

173. *Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member please lay a statement on the floor of the House about the work done by him and his other colleagues about financial arrangements during and after the war between India and other countries?

(b) Will the Honourable Member give an opportunity to the House to discuss his statement?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I refer the Honourable Member to my answer to his Starred Question No. 66 on the 3rd November, 1944, also to my answer to Sudar Sant Singh's Starred Question No. 72 on the same date.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Will the Honourable Member give us an opportunity to discuss it?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I answered that also.

STEPS FOR STABILISING PURCHASING POWER OF RUPEE

174. *Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member please lay a statement before the House on the steps he has taken since the last session of the Assembly for stabilizing the purchasing power of rupee and fixing the prices of principal commodities to paper rupee?

(b) What is the price of gold in terms of sterling at New York and London?

(c) What is the price of gold on the same rates in India as sold by the Reserve Bank?

(d) What is the reason for such an enormous difference?

(e) Is it not a fact that the difference of prices is written off against the sterling balances of India and England?

(f) Have the South African Government approached the Government of India or the Reserve Bank with the request that their gold may also be sold at this high price by the Reserve Bank? What reply, if any, have the Government of India given to the South African Government?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the answer given to his question No. 67 on 3rd

November, 1944 It is not considered necessary to lay a further statement on the table

(b) The price of gold in London is 168 shillings and in New York \$35 which at the present rate of exchange of 54.03 = £1 represent 173 sh 7d per fine ounce

(c) The question is not clear but if the Honourable Member wants to know the price at which Reserve Bank makes sales on behalf of H. M. G. and the American Government as compared with the London and New York rates, the London price is equal to Rs 112 and the New York price to Rs 116-7-0 per fine ounce while the Reserve Bank does not sell at a fixed price but with reference to the prevailing market price in India

(d) The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to my remarks on the Budget Debate at pages 911-13 in Volume II, No. 6 of the Legislative Assembly Debates

(e) No process of writing off is involved

(f) The answer to the first part of the question is in the negative The second part does not arise

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: In part (c) there was a misprint, the word 'rates' being put instead of "dates"

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: That is one of the reasons why the question was not clear

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: The Honourable Member should have noticed that mistake

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I cannot always assume that an ambiguity in the Honourable Member's question is due to a printer's error

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: With reference to part (f), may I know if any gold belonging to the South African Government is sold in India as such?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I have already answered that. Certainly a certain amount of gold that comes from South Africa is sold in India. But the question was whether the South African Government had approached the Government of India or the Reserve Bank; the answer is in the negative.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: In amplification of it, does the Honourable Member confirm that a certain amount of gold that comes from South Africa is sold in India?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Certainly, South Africa is one of the main sources of the world's gold, and a good deal comes here from South Africa

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: Can the Honourable Member state whether this gold is the property of the South African Government?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: As far as I am aware, the gold sold by the Reserve Bank is sold on behalf of either the United Kingdom or the U. S. A.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: At what profit?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I have already said that no question of profit arises

Mr. Manu Subedar: Is it a fact that the full price realised in India goes to His Majesty's Government or to the South African and neither the Reserve Bank nor the Government of India get any share of that price?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: It is a fact that neither the Reserve Bank nor the Government of India make any profit on these sales

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I know why the Government of India have not so far approached H. M. G. for a share of this profit that is made in this country, and whether they propose to approach them in this matter?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: This question was fully discussed in the last Budget debate and I have nothing to add to what I said on that occasion

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: I want to know whether gold is sold in India at world's parity on the same date

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: No, Sir, it is not

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Then some one is making a profit, who is that?
The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I am afraid the Honourable Member is arguing, but I did deal with that argument in the course of my reply to the Budget debate.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: It is no argument. My question is, who is making that profit?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: If it is not admitted that a profit is made, it becomes an argument.

DETENTION OF MR. R P CHADDAH OF AMRITSAR

175. *Sardar Sant Singh: (a) Will the War Secretary please state if Mr R P Chaddah, resident of Koocha Khotian, Katra Moti Ram, Lohgarh Gate, Amritsar, was originally detained under rule 26 of the Defence of India Rules on his repatriation from Shanghai when he landed at Bombay along with the members of his family.

(b) Is it a fact that later on he was transferred for detention from civil jail to military authorities? If so, how long has he been in detention now?

(c) Were any charges ever handed over to this gentleman? If so, will the Government place a copy of the charge on the table of the House and his reply to the charge if any?

(d) Was his case ever reviewed, since his detention? If so, by what authorities, and with what result?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir, he is still in a civil jail. Mr Chaddah has been in detention since 24th November, 1942.

(c) No, Sir, neither the old Defence of India Rule 26, nor the new Ordinance IV of 1944 required communication of the grounds of detention to the detainee. The latter part of the question does not arise.

(d) Yes, Sir. Mr Chaddah's case has been reviewed twice by the Central Government, but on each occasion it was considered, after due deliberation, that he must continue to remain in detention. Government propose to review the case again shortly.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What was the last date when his case was reviewed?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: I think it was about six months ago.

Sardar Sant Singh: His original arrest and detention was under D I Rule 26 and later on he was transferred to the military authorities. May I know the reasons for this transfer?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: He has not been transferred to the military authorities. What happened was that when Ordinance No. 4 of 1944 was passed the order under D I Rule 26 was cancelled and an order under that Ordinance was passed.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Are not Government expected under Ordinance 1 of 1944 to review these cases at least once every six months?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: Not according to Ordinance 1. My Honourable friend is thinking of Ordinance No. 3.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Very well. Under Ordinance No. 3 are not the Government of India liable to review these cases once in six months? If so, why is it that they have not reviewed this case as yet, because the Honourable Member said it was last reviewed six months ago?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: This gentleman was not detained under Ordinance No. 3 but under Ordinance No. 4.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: In that case has he the privilege to expect his case to be reviewed once in six months or not?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: The Ordinance itself does not require a review ordinarily, but we sometimes do so.

Sardar Sant Singh: May we know whether it is a fact that the civil police of the Punjab and the police of Bombay reported in favour of this man when he was originally detained?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: I am not aware of that.

Sardar Sant Singh: Will the Honourable Member kindly send for these reports when reviewing the man's case?

Sardar Mangal Singh: Who reviews these cases?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdul Rahim) Next question

WAR ALLOWANCE

1176. ***Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon:** (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Government of India, Finance Department, in their letter No. F-2 (52)-W44, dated the 25th September, 1944, have sanctioned War Allowance equal to 10 per cent of pay to married officers drawing pay up to Rs. 1,000 subject to a minimum of Rs. 50 and with marginal adjustments up to Rs. 1,100?

(b) Is it a fact that single officers drawing pay up to Rs. 750 will also receive War Allowance equal to 5 per cent of pay subject to a minimum of Rs. 30 and with marginal adjustments up to Rs. 788?

(c) Is it also a fact that non-gazetted officers will also receive Dearness Allowance at existing rates or War Allowance at 10 per cent of pay, whichever is greater?

(d) Is it a fact that so far as the non-gazetted staff getting pay up to Rs. 200 is concerned, there will be no relief to men getting pay up to Rs. 140 and relief of Re. 1 to Rs. 6 to those whose pay is between Rs. 150 and Rs. 200? Do the Government think that this relief to staff getting pay up to Rs. 200 is commensurate with the rise in prices which have increased from 400 per cent to 600 per cent over the pre-war rates? Will the Government be pleased to reconsider the matter and afford some more substantial relief to staff getting pay up to Rs. 200? If not, why not?

(e) Is it a fact that the Government of India had sanctioned the grant of travelling allowance upto a maximum of Rs. 300 to Government servants not enjoying Dearness Allowance?

(f) Is it a fact that the Government of India have now sanctioned War Allowance equal to 10 per cent of pay to officers drawing pay up to Rs. 1,000 with marginal adjustments up to Rs. 1,100?

(g) Will the above travelling allowance also be paid to all the officers now in receipt of the War Allowance? If so, will the Government also extend this concession to the entire non-gazetted clerical staff in Audit and Accounts Offices in India who are also paid 10 per cent War Allowance from the 1st July, 1944? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) and (b) Yes, to gazetted officers

(c) Yes

(d) The extra relief in 'B' areas is as stated by the Honourable Member. The general increase in prices has been somewhat overstated in this part of the question. Government do, however, realise that the present rates of dearness allowance only compensate in part for the increased cost of living but they regard the present rates as affording as much relief as all the factors which have to be taken into consideration permit. Government have the matter continually under review.

(e) Yes, but the maximum varies from Rs. 300 for 1st Grade to Rs. 150 for second Grade and Rs. 80 for third Grade officers and is only admissible to the extent that they and their wives incur the expenditure on a journey on leave granted for rest and recreation.

(f) My reply to parts (a) and (b) of this question covers this point.

(g) Yes, except to those who were in receipt of dearness allowance prior to 1st July 1944. Government regret that they are unable to make an exception from the scope of the above decision in favour of the staff mentioned.

RE-EDITION OF FILM "TUNISIAN VICTORY"

1177. ***Mr. K. C. Neogy:** Will the Honourable Member for Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state

(a) whether the film "Tunisian Victory" was re-edited in order to include the exploits of Indian soldiers;

†Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner being absent

(b) whether this re-edition has been only in respect of the copy exhibited in India,

(c) who were the producers of the "Tunisian Victory",

(d) whether his attention has been drawn to the comments of the British film weekly *Picturegoer* that the *Tunisian Victory* is the first fifty-fifty per cent Anglo-American documentary which depicts with complete impartiality the work of the British and American forces during the Tunisian campaign,

(e) whether it is a fact that the film "Desert Victory" also omitted to include the exploits of Indian Soldiers in the campaign depicted in it?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: (a) The film "Tunisian Victory" was re-edited prior to release to the public in India in order that additional footage showing the exploits of Indian troops over and above that already in the original film could be included

(b) Yes, Sir

(c) The film was a joint official Anglo-American production, the Ministry of Information being responsible for the British share

(d) I had not seen the "Picturegoer's" comments, but as quoted by the Honourable Member they are correct

(e) No, Sir The exploits of Indian troops did appear in the film "Desert Victory"

Mr. K. C. Neogy: With regard to this other film, "The Tunisian Victory" has the Honourable Member taken any steps for the purpose of bringing to the notice of the British Ministry of Information the injustice done by exclusion of the exploits of the Indian soldiers from the original copy?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: The original copy included 100 feet of specific shots of Indian troops and we added afterwards another 150 feet. At the time this came to our notice we did lodge a protest to the Secretary of State

FILM SHOWING MAHATMA GANDHI'S RELEASE

178. ***Mr. K. C. Neogy:** Will the Honourable Member for Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state

(a) whether any film unit working under the Information and Broadcasting Department had taken shots of the scenes showing Mahatma Gandhi's release from the Aga Khan's palace in Poona, and his subsequent arrival by train in Bombay,

(b) whether these shots were exhibited along with others in the series "Indian News Parade" in any city on any day, if not, whether these particular shots, etc. were prohibited from being exhibited?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: (a) Yes

(b) First part 'yes', second part does not arise

LANGUAGE POLICY OF ALL-INDIA RADIO

†179. ***Mr. R. R. Gupta:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state whether his attention has been drawn towards a recent publication of the Provincial Hindi Sahitya Sammelan, Allahabad, entitled "The Language Policy of All-India Radio"?

(b) If the answer to (a) above is in the affirmative, what steps have his Department taken to refute the charges levelled against the language policy of the All-India Radio?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: (a) Yes

(b) In view of the fact that the book is full of inaccuracies and is manifestly tendentious, it has not been considered necessary to refute the allegations contained in it. Government is, however, aware that there has been some dissatisfaction with the language policy of All-India Radio in some quarters and the matter is receiving Government's serious consideration

PREPONDERANCE OF URDU BROADCASTS FROM ALL-INDIA RADIO STATIONS

†180. ***Mr. R. R. Gupta:** Will the Honourable Member for Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the proportion of total

†Answer to this question laid on the table the questioner being absent.

broadcasts from the All-India Radio stations, so far as language is concerned, is 85 per cent items in Urdu and 15 per cent in Hindi? Is it also not a fact that 75 per cent items go to Muslim writers and 25 per cent to Hindi writers, including Sikhs?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the reply given by me this morning to part (c) of Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh's stated question No. 170.

HINDU AND MUSLIM EMPLOYEES IN RADIO STATIONS

†181. ***Mr. R. R. Gupta:** Will the Honourable Member for Information and Broadcasting be pleased to lay before the House a chart giving percentage of employees of Hindu and Muslim communities in all the Radio Stations in India?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: A statement showing the percentage of Hindu and Muslim employees on the staff of All-India Radio stations as on 31st August 1944 is laid on the table.

Statement										Percentage of Hindus	Percentage of Muslims
Name of station											
Delhi	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	60.2	31.3
Bombay	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	70.0	13.3
Calcutta	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	70.3	18.8
Amreli	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	41.2	52.9
Lucknow	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	64.0	66.0
Madras	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	80.0	8.0
Peshawar	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	35.0	55.0
Tripunavady	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	66.7	15.7
Dacca	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	70.9	23.1
Madras Unit (Dehra)	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	78.6	21.4

The above figures exclude the interior staff and include the posts of Station Directors, Assistant Station Directors and Programme Executives which are exempted from the scope of communal representation orders.

RADIO NEWS BULLETINS IN HINDUSTANI

†182. ***Mr. R. R. Gupta:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state as to who lays down the language policy of Radio News Bulletins in Hindustani, and the policy followed in editing the Hindustani language for common consumption?

(b) Has ever an attempt been made to find out whether the language used is palatable to the majority of the listeners? Are the news bulletins written originally in Urdu or Hindi scripts?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: (a) The policy is laid down by the Government of India. It is and has all along been that the words used should be as widely intelligible as possible.

(b) Suggestions from listeners are welcomed. They are invited through announcements and through correspondence and are constantly received in All-India Radio in large numbers. Government have also the benefit of the views of the Advisory Committees which have been set up, one for each station, to advise Director General, All-India Radio and to keep him in touch with the wishes of the listening public. The programmes are designed to meet these wishes as far as possible. The news bulletins are written either in Urdu or in the Hindi script depending on which script the Announcer is familiar with.

RECONSIDERATION OF LANGUAGE POLICY IN HINDI

†183. ***Mr. R. R. Gupta:** Will the Honourable Member for Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state if in view of the great resentment prevailing amongst the Hindi speaking public regarding the treatment meted out to Hindi, the Government contemplate to reconsider its present language policy?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: Government is aware that there has been some criticism of the language policy of All-India Radio in some quarters. The matter is receiving Government's serious consideration.

†Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner being absent.

PAMPHLET "OUR INDIAN EMPIRE".

184. *Mr. K. S. Gupta: (a) Is the War Secretary aware of the publication of a pamphlet 'Our Indian Empire'? Who is the author, and when was it published?

(b) How many British officers in the Indian army were provided with the pamphlet?

(c) When was it withdrawn? Did the Government of India make any representation with regard to it? If so, would it be placed on the table?

(d) Is a copy of it available with the Government of India? Would it be placed on the table?

Mr. O. M. Trivedi: (a) Yes, Sir The publication was produced by the General Staff, India, and published by the Manager of Publications, Delhi. It has been printed and revised four times during the period 1932 to 1940.

(b) Copies at the rate of 10,000 per annum were supplied to the War Office for issue to all Army and Air Force personnel proceeding to India.

(c) The pamphlet was withdrawn in April 1944. Being an official publication of the Government of India, the latter parts of the question do not arise.

(d) Yes, Sir. A copy is available in the Library of the House.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Why was it withdrawn?

Mr. O. M. Trivedi: It was withdrawn because I think the pamphlet as a whole is really out of date.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Outraged?

Mr. O. M. Trivedi: No, I said it is "out of date".

MAHATMA GANDHI'S LIFE SAVED BY BRITISH SOLDIERS

185. *Mr. K. C. Neogy: Will the War Secretary be pleased to state whether his attention has been drawn to a statement reported to have been published in the *Birmingham Post* and reproduced in the issue of the *Hindustan Times*, Delhi, dated the 13th September, 1944, to the effect that during a recent journey Mahatma Gandhi's life was saved by British soldiers? If so, what are the particulars of any such incident?

Mr. O. M. Trivedi: I have seen the statement in the *Hindustan Times*, dated the 14th September, 1944, in which the *Birmingham Gazette* is quoted as stating that Mr. Gandhi's carriage had to be protected by British troops from anti-Gandhi demonstrators. I have no particulars about this incident, except the Press reports that, when Mr. Gandhi was on his way to Bombay from Wardha, there was a small demonstration against him at Kalvan station on the 9th September, that the Railway Police and some British troops, who were travelling by the same train, and local volunteers cordoned off Mr. Gandhi's compartment and that the demonstrators withdrew after shouting slogans.

†186.*

INDIA'S DOLLAR POSITION

187. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state to what use the dollars accruing from exports to the United States of America from India have been put since the beginning of the war?

(b) Is it a fact that these dollars have been appropriated by His Majesty's Government to their own use?

(c) Have His Majesty's Government given away all these dollars to the United States of America, or are they holding them in a dollar pool?

(d) If there is a pool, what is the volume of it?

(e) How far have the negotiations advanced for giving a share of the dollars accruing to India for use by India for purchases of capital and other goods after the war?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Baisman: (a) and (c) The dollars which accrue from Exports to the United States of America from India, as also those which similarly accrue from other Empire countries, were paid into a Common Empire

†This question was withdrawn by the questioner

pool from which are met the essential dollar import requirements of the sterling area countries

(b) No

(d) The Government of India are not in possession of this information

(e) I am not in a position to add to the information which I have previously given on this subject

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I know whether it is not a fact that a much larger amount of dollar accrued to India than the corresponding liability for purchases made in the United States for India?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: That may be so in respect of commercial purchases. That does not necessarily give the whole picture.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Does he wish to convey that the United Kingdom and other sterling areas have appropriated dollars which rightfully belonged to this country?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I do not know what the Honourable Member means by appropriating dollars which rightly belonged to this country. The fact is that the whole of the transactions of these countries with the United States of America are dealt with as one and that the proceeds of those transactions are utilised on behalf of the war effort of the whole of the Empire country?

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I enquire, Sir, whether it is not a fact that the civil population is refused dollar exchange by the Reserve Bank even for such things as subscriptions to the Readers' Digest, and whether it is not a fact that a good many industrialists who desire to make essential purchases for their own requirements are told that they cannot get exchange on the United States of America when there is a visible surplus and when dollars arising out of the purchases by the United States of America from India are there and that the use of this exchange is denied to the citizens of this country even for the education of their children no remittances are given.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: It is quite true that a stringent economy is exercised here as well as elsewhere in regard to the expenditure of dollars, but that arises from the fact that the whole position of the sterling area vis-à-vis America is difficult and therefore economy has to be exercised in the interests of the war effort. It is the situation created by the war which has brought about these difficulties and India as a participant country has to suffer certain disadvantages.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I know with regard to (e) whether recently a promise was not made to assign a definite share of this pool to India and particularly for use after the war, also what progress has been made with regard to this arrangement and how much will be India's share in this dollar pool?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: That undertaking has been carried out. A certain quantity of dollars is being earmarked for India's use after the war.

Mr. Manu Subedar: In that case the Honourable Member has replied to (d) that there is no share for India for the dollar pool and I have asked for the volume of it. Why not tell the House how much it is?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: The question of the total external resources which are at the disposal of His Majesty's Government for this purpose is a secret which is not published anywhere. I am not in a position to state it.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Will Government promise to see that justice is done to India?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: The concern of the Government of India is to see that justice is done to India.

Mr. Manu Subedar: I said in proportion to the goods which the United States required from this country that the entire dollar arising out of such purchases will be made available to the population of India.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: The question of doing justice to India would not be decided on that factor alone.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: Is it a fact that the United States of America has to pay India a considerable amount of money for expenditure incurred on American troops in India?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Yes. The United States has to raise rupees for expenditure in India.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: Does America pay India in dollars for that purpose?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: It raises rupees partly by sale of gold and partly by provision of dollars.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: What happens to those dollars?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Those go to the Empire Dollar Pool.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: Why should they go to the Empire Dollar Pool? It is a direct payment by the United States to India for services rendered by India directly to the United States. Where does the Empire Dollar Pool come in?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Because dollars, like all resources—like man power, like life blood—is a factor which has to be used in the prosecution of the war.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: That life blood has to be used by everybody.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Quite so.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: by India, as everybody else, and if it is due directly to India, it should be credited to India.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: It is credited to India as part of India's contribution to the general war effort.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: May I ask whether the Reserve Bank of India or the Finance Department is keeping a separate Lease and Lend Account between India and the United States?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Yes, Sir. We are endeavouring to keep a separate account.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: May I ask the Honourable Member whether the amount that is made available to India is a specific amount arbitrarily fixed, or does this amount depend upon the requirements of the Indian public as assessed by the Indian Government?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: It also depends, to a certain extent, on the quantity of India's dollar earning.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Will the Honourable Member give a certificate of good accountancy to any person who is 'endeavouring' to keep separate accounts?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: It depends on the circumstances with which he has to deal.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: Since the Honourable Member has remarked that the amount that is made available depends on the quantity of India's dollar earning, may I ask whether any amount that is paid by the American Government in respect of expenses on American Forces in India also comes into the Pool?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: The amount paid by America in dollars comes into the general calculation.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Next question.

MEASURES FOR RECOVERY OF STERLING BALANCES.

188. ***Mr. Manu Subedar:** (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state if it is a fact that purchases in India by the Eastern Group, the Allied Governments, the U K C C and His Majesty's Government are made at controlled rates? What, if any, are the exceptions to this rule?

(b) Is it a fact that concern has been shown in the United Kingdom about the sterling balances accumulated in London and that there have been various proposals to scale down or to repudiate the liability for such balances?

(c) What correspondence in letters and telegrams has taken place between the Secretary of State and the Government of India, and do Government

propose to place this correspondence on the table of the House?

(d) What steps have the Government of India taken to safeguard the interests of India which are in clear conflict with the interests of the United Kingdom in this case?

(e) What conversations did the Honourable Member have in London on his way back from the Bretton Woods Conference?

(f) Is it a fact that the Honourable Member did not support the non-official delegates at the Bretton Woods Conference in the specific request which they made with regard to the sterling balances?

(g) What decisions have Government reached with regard to the measures to be taken for the recovery of the sterling balances?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) I assume that by 'controlled rates' the Honourable Member refers to Supply Department contract rates for Government purchases. Where other Governments purchase from India through Government channels Government of India contract rates are available where the purchase is for war purposes, otherwise not. Eastern Group Governments make all their purchases from India through official channels, Allied Governments sometimes do and sometimes do not. HMG generally obtain finished article, through Government channels but not raw materials. The UKCC¹ whether it purchases direct from the market or through the Supply Department (e.g., for controlled items) gets no price advantage.

(b) The question of India's sterling balances has been discussed in the English Press and in Parliament but no proposals of the nature suggested have been made by His Majesty's Government.

(c) It is not the practice of Government to disclose the contents of their correspondence with the Secretary of State.

(d) The necessity of steps to safeguard India's interests has not arisen, but the Government of India are fully conscious of the importance of this matter.

(e) and (g) I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply which I gave to Dr Sir Zin Uddin Ahmad's starred question No 66 on the 3rd November 1944.

(f) No, it is not a fact.

Mr. Manu Subedar: With regard to the answer to part (a), has the Honourable Member conveyed to this House the fact that these outside parties get their goods at controlled rates through Government channels, goods which the civil population of this country cannot get either at controlled or at any rate?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I said 'Government of India contract rates are available where the purchase is for war purposes'.

Mr. Manu Subedar: But where the purchase is for the civil population of the United Kingdom, does the Honourable Member deny that tea has been purchased in this country for consumption of the United Kingdom civil population and at controlled rates of 5 to 8 annas a lb whereas the civil population of this country has to pay Rs. 1-8-0 to Rs. 2 per lb?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I am not aware of the facts about tea specifically. I should require notice of that.

Mr. Manu Subedar: There is a Controller of Tea purchasing to the tune of about a crore of rupees a month. Does the Honourable Member in charge of India's finances really mean that he is not aware of these accounts?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I am certainly aware of the existence of the Tea Controller.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Then, Sir, does he deny that tea for the civil population of the United Kingdom and many other articles for civil population of the Eastern Group, including our friend South Africa, are purchased at controlled price in this country in priority to, and in preference to the requirements of the civil population of this country?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: The purchase of supplies for civil population may nevertheless be a purchase for war purposes.

Mr. Manu Subedar: With regard to the rest of the replies, will the Honourable Member tell this House when he proposes to lift this *pardah* of mystery

on the question of sterling balances which is agitating the minds of the whole country? When does he propose to give us full amounts of them, when will he tell us what negotiations are on in order that these balances may be, ultimately, and when India requires them, realized?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I am not aware what the Honourable Member means by a 'paidah of mystery'. The actual figures regarding

Mr. Manu Subedar: I refer to the consistent denials of information by the Honourable the Finance Member on this subject.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: The actual figures of the sterling balances are published more or less every week and anybody can find out what their amount is. They are regularly commented on in the financial journals. So I do not see where 'paidah of mystery' comes in. As regards the other question, I, like every human being, am not in a position to make a statement on any matter which has not yet been determined. I have answered questions regarding the present position of the sterling balances and the possibility of discussions on them, but I cannot tell him about anything which does not yet exist.

Mr. Manu Subedar: With regard to (g), I asked what decisions have Government taken with regard to the measures to be taken for the recovery of the sterling balances? I hope the Executive Council have deliberated on this subject and I would like the Honourable Member to give this House some information as to what progress has been made in these discussions?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: If the Honourable Member would kindly listen sometimes to replies given to other Honourable Members' questions as well as his own, he will realize that I have answered that very question. I have said that no decisions were taken.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: Is it not a fact that the United Kingdom were going to invite a delegation to that country to discuss this question of Sterling Balances?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I indicated on a previous day that we were expecting discussions to take place and I said that I did not think they could take place before the next spring.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: I understand that no progress has been made with regard to the invitation to the Government of India to send somebody to England to discuss this question?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Yes, no further progress.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: With regard to part (d) of this question, may I ask the Honourable Member what steps Government of India are taking to associate with themselves non-official public opinion in order to safeguard the interests of India when the interests of India are in clear conflict with the interests of the United Kingdom in respect of sterling balances in England?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I do not know what specific steps the Honourable Member contemplates. I should have thought that we had already associated with ourselves non-official public opinion with regard to this matter.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What I had in mind is this. Whenever there is a conflict between the interests of India and the interests of England in regard to the disposal of the sterling balances that have accumulated to the credit of India in England, what steps do Government of India propose to take in order to associate with themselves non-official public opinion of this country so that they can strengthen their own hands in their effort to get justice for India from England and English statesmen.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: The Government of India are fully aware of the importance of the considerations suggested by my Honourable friend and they will undoubtedly bear that in mind when any question of negotiations or discussions arises.

†189.*

†This question was withdrawn by the questioner

BRETTON WOODS MONETARY CONFERENCE

190. *Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state when the Government of India received an invitation to attend the Bretton Woods Conference?

(b) Was the invitation extended direct or through His Majesty's Government?

(c) What were the considerations that influenced him in selecting the delegation to Bretton Woods Conference?

(d) Where exactly did the General Policy (Reconstruction) Committee come in regard to this matter?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) 26th May 1944

(b) The invitation was received direct

(c) The official delegates consisted of those who are Government's principal expert advisers in regards to monetary policy. Government selected as non-official delegates persons representing business and commercial interests who were in close contact with eminent economic developments

(d) In view of the close connection between monetary policy and reconstruction, and the limited time available for sounding public opinion, the Government, for the guidance of their delegation, consulted the General Policy (Reconstruction) Committee on the Joint Statement of Principles by experts, which formed the basis of the Bretton Woods Conference

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: May I ask the Honourable Member if it is the considered opinion of the Government of India that this House is not capable of helping him in regard to what is stated in answer to part (c) of the question

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: No, Sir. I must point out that the last Session of this House, viz. the Budget Session had already finished early in April and that suddenly though no fault of ours, but as a result of American developments, we received an invitation in May for an early conference. It was hardly possible in these circumstances to summon this House in order to deal with that question

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: Could not the delegation be made wide enough to include one or two non-official Members of this House to assist him in this Delegation?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: The invitation which was sent to us asked us to send one or more delegates to participate in the Conference and it did not seem at the time as though any non-official association was expected. But, on mature consideration, we did decide to associate two non-officials with our Delegation which was a larger proportion than was present in most of the other Delegations

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: Am I to understand that the Honourable Member has come back wiser and now feels that non-official help will be of value in such delegations in future?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: It did not require any increase in wisdom in order to arrive at that conclusion!

Prof. N. G. Ranga: In view of the fact that the Bretton Woods Conference made a specific recommendation that special steps were expected by that Conference to be taken to make provision for adequate agricultural credit in the different countries of the world, how is it that the Honourable Member never thought it necessary to see that his Delegation included at least one or two representatives whether official or non-official, who could be expected to speak for the interests of the Indian agriculturists at this Conference. Does this mean that the Government of India had thought that at this Conference the Indian agriculturists have no interests at all nor were their interests involved in the deliberations of this Conference?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I am afraid if arguments of that kind were accepted the Delegation would have to consist possibly of fifty or sixty persons. The Government of India felt that they were themselves able

to deal with such aspects of agricultural credit as might arise at the Conference

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Government of India bear in mind the necessity for providing adequate representation for these interests at least in regard to the future conferences that may be held?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: The Government of India are not likely to overlook the necessity of bearing in mind the agricultural interests

PROFITS MADE BY UNITED KINGDOM AND AMERICA THROUGH SALE OF GOLD IN INDIA.

191. *Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state

(a) the total profits made till 1st November, 1944, through the sale of gold in this country by—

(i) the Government of the United Kingdom, and

(ii) the Government of the United States of America,

(b) whether the transactions by the Government of the United Kingdom are made through the agency of the Bank of England and by the Government of the United States of America through the Federal Reserve Bank, and

(c) whether the profit made by these two Governments are subject to income-tax and super-tax?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) As I have previously explained on the floor of this House, the purpose of the sales of gold by the Reserve Bank of India on behalf of the Governments of the United Kingdom and the United States of America is to provide rupees towards meeting the war expenditure of those two countries in India. The question for profit does not therefore arise. If the Honourable Member's desire is to know the difference between the actual realisations from these sales and what would have been realised had the sales been made at import parity prices I regret that I cannot give the information.

(b) The sales are made by the Reserve Bank as agent for the two Governments concerned on instructions received from time to time from the Bank of England.

(c) There is no question of liability to income tax as the sales of gold are not of the nature of trade or business transactions.

Mr. Manu Subedar: If the question of profit does not arise, what are they? Is it not a fact that gold is sold in this country because the price of gold in this country is higher than its price in the country of its origin?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I have already pointed out that the only object in the sales of this gold is to raise the rupees necessary in order to pay India for some of the services and goods which are received from India.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Any article sold by any foreign government in this country should be liable to income-tax at the hands of the agent of that country. I would like to know why the Finance Department is lax in its duty of sticking up income-tax and supertax on these people, from the agents whom they employ in this country?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: The Honourable Member is not quite correct in saying that any foreign agent is liable. Actually the legal position is that such a body like, for instance, the Government of the United States of America would not be liable to income-tax, even if the view that the transactions were of the nature of trade were adopted.

Mr. T. S. Avinashlingam Chettiar: Is the Reserve Bank of India allowed to act as agent of any foreign Government in the matter of sale of gold?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: The functions of the Reserve Bank are controlled by the Reserve Bank of India Act. The Reserve Bank is certainly entitled to act as agent in such sales.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Are the Government of India prepared to have the Income-tax Act suitably amended in order to bring these people under the mischief of that act and see that those people are made liable to pay income-tax on the profits they make at the cost of India?

EXCESSIVE RAILWAY TRAVEL BY MILITARY MEN.

192. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the War Secretary be pleased to state the purpose of the considerable movement of military of all ranks throughout the country by practically every train which is running from anywhere to anywhere?

(b) Are Government aware of the enormous inconvenience to the civil population, of cases of unpleasantness between soldiers and the civil population, or of civil population being forcibly asked to clear out of Railway compartments in the middle of the journey to create accommodation for soldiers and their officers?

(c) Is it a fact that American sailors on duty at Madras were found in Simla for sight seeing because they had a week off?

(d) Is it a fact that liberal leave rules exist and every officer of the Army can get leave either to go and see his family or to go to the town or to a hill station?

(e) Is it true that the same conditions existed before the war?

(f) Have Government taken steps to reduce the amount of travelling by Army officers and others?

(g) Have Government thought of restricting the movement of military people to one day in the week or to a certain number of trains only and not in all trains?

(h) Is it a fact that advertisements of Railways appealing to the public to travel less had their origin in the desire to get more accommodation for military people when they are reporting from somewhere to somewhere, when they are going to conferences, or when they are spending their leave with friends or in large cities?

(i) What steps have Government taken to reduce travelling by their own officers and men in the Military Department so as to reduce the inconvenience to the travelling public and the civil population?

Mr. O. M. Trivedi: (a) Military personnel move on duty and leave. The fact that their movement at present is so heavy is due to the great expansion of the Defence Services.

(b) Yes, Sir, Government are aware of the inconvenience and of occasional instances of unpleasantness. I may however add that whenever the guilt of military personnel is established in such cases, disciplinary action is taken against the individuals concerned.

(c) I am not aware of this, but if my Honourable friend gives me further particulars, I will have the matter investigated.

(d) and (e) Leave rules do exist, but they are now considerably less liberal than they were before the war.

(f) and (i) Travel by military personnel is already reduced to the absolute minimum commensurate with the necessity of the situation, so that no further reduction is possible.

(g) This would be impracticable in view of the urgency of the moves and of the large numbers to be carried.

(h) Yes, Sir. It is essential that the civilian public should travel less in war time, not only to enable the railways to carry vital war material and military personnel wherever required, but also to avoid inconvenience to themselves.

EXPORT TRADE TO UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

193. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state the export trade to the United States of America since the beginning of the war? (Please state in value per year)

(b) Does this include export to the same destination, i.e., United States of America or is it also for the United States of America Army elsewhere from purchases made by the Government of India?

(c) Is there a purchase machinery for the United States of America in India, and, if so, how is it functioning, and how much is its turnover every year?

(d) Is it a fact that the dollars arising out of such exports to the United States of America or purchases made by the Government of the United States of America have been appropriated by His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom and India is credited only with the sterling equivalent?

(e) What is the total volume of such dollars which have been diverted from India into the United Kingdom Treasury?

(f) Since when has the Lend-Lease arrangement between the United States of America and India started?

(g) What is the total amount of Lend-Lease goods that have reached India?

(h) What are the principal items in such goods, and what is the total amount of purchases made by the United States of America or supplies made available by India under the Lend-Lease arrangement?

(i) On balance, who is the gainer?

(j) Who made this arrangement?

(k) Was it negotiated in England by His Majesty's Government, and imposed on India, or did the Government have anything to say on it?

(l) Was this arrangement discussed by the Executive Council of His Excellency the Governor General before it was accepted and given effect to?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) The figures of export trade from British India to the United States of America are given in the Accounts relating to the Sea-borne Trade and Navigation of British India which are published every month.

(b) The figures are for trade in merchandise to the United States of America.

(c) The U S Government have no regular mission for making purchases in India on their behalf.

(d) All dollars accruing to India as well as to other Empire countries are put into the Common Empire Pool from which they are used for meeting the essential import requirements of the sterling area countries. India gets credit in sterling for the amount of dollars in excess of her requirements.

(e) There is no question of wrongful diversion. Information regarding the actual net amount of dollars contributed by India to the Empire Pool is not available.

(f), (j) and (k) The Honourable Member's attention is invited to the relevant portions of my Budget Speeches for 1942-43 and subsequent years.

(g) The total estimated value of Lend-Lease stores received in India to the end of July 1944 is approximately Rs 275 crores.

(h) The principal items of Lease-Lend goods received from the United States of America are mainly munitions of war of all kinds. Metals, machinery, Pol, food and tobacco for the armed forces, etc are also received. As regards the supplies or services made available to the United States of America as a measure of Reciprocal Aid, the Honourable Member's attention is invited to the Press Note on the subject published on the 3rd September, 1944.

(i) The Honourable Member can draw his own conclusions.

(l) The normal procedure was observed.

Mr. Manu Subedar: With regard to my question, on balance who is the gainer, the reply given is that "the Honourable Member can draw his own conclusions." But since the Honourable Finance Member has got figures on both sides, will he not tell this House whether up to date we have given more than we have received, or whether it is the other way round?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I explained the position in my last Budget speech, the position up to now is that India has received more than she has given.

(b) WRITTEN ANSWERS

OUTSIDE MISSIONS TO INDIA.

194. ***Mr. Manu Subedar:** (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state how many Missions have come to India since the commencement of the war?

(b) What has been the cost to India of each of these Missions?

(c) Why is the report of the Grady Mission not published?

(d) Did the Government of India invite the Machine Tools Mission, or was it the suggestion of His Majesty's Government or English businessmen that they should visit this country?

(e) Who invited Professor Hill, Earl Munster, Sir Henry French and Beverly Nichols, and what would their visits cost this country?

(f) In what other directions have "experts" been called out for this country, and what is the total additional cost of the services of these "experts" since the beginning of the war?

(g) What will be the cost of the proposed Medical Mission to India, and what is its purpose?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House in due course

CONFIRMATION OF A MATRICULATE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER OF INCOME-TAX IN THE PUNJAB

195. *Bhai Farmanand: (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state if it is a fact that the Governments' general instructions are to take candidates with the minimum qualification of Intermediate for the posts of clerks and Graduates for officers?

(b) Is it a fact that two new posts of Assistant Commissioners have been recently created in the Income-tax Department, Punjab, and two officers have been confirmed on those posts, out of whom one is a Matriculate? If so, will Government be pleased to see that the principle of minimum qualification of a graduate for the post of officers is duly adhered to?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) I take it that the Honourable Member is referring to the Income-tax Departments. Ordinarily, the minimum qualification required for direct recruitment to clerical grades in the Income-tax Departments is a Matriculation certificate or other equivalent qualification and to officers' grades a Degree. But this restriction regarding minimum qualification does not apply to departmental promotions.

(b) Possibly the Honourable Member has in mind the two temporary posts that have been made permanent. If so, one of the officers confirmed as an Assistant Commissioner against one of these two posts is a first in Arts, which is, I understand, a stage above a Matriculate. But he has been "selected" for promotion from the Income-tax Officer's cadre of the Punjab Income-tax Department. The second part of the question does not arise.

INCOME-TAX REFUNDS TO CERTAIN ASSESSEES IN THE PUNJAB

196. *Bhai Farmanand: (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state if it is a fact that the Commissioner of Income-Tax, Punjab, has given large amount of refund to some assessee without their filing regular appeals, as provided by the Law, in spite of the fact that the assessment in those cases was approved by the Assistant Commissioners-in-Charge?

(b) Will the Government be pleased to take steps to avoid such unnecessary harassment to the tax-payers like this in future?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) and (b) I am making enquiries and an answer will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

SCHEME FOR RESETTLEMENT OF PERSONS EVICTED FROM HOMES UNDER DEFENCE OF INDIA RULE 75 (a) (7)

197. *Mr. Ananga Mohan Daim: (a) Will the War Secretary be pleased to state whether Government have any scheme for resettlement and rehabilitation of persons evicted from homes under Defence of India Rule 75(A)(1)? If so, what is that?

(b) Is it a fact that the valuation of certain houses requisitioned under Defence of India Rule 75(A)(1) are done in the district of Sylhet, Assam, by officers who have no expert knowledge in the line?

(c) Is it a fact that the compensation paid for *kuchha* houses requisitioned under the Defence of India Rules in the district of Sylhet fall far below the

Public Works Department's rates for similar houses in those localities, and that the compensation given for trees also are very low, having no bearing with the present market value of fruits etc ?

(d) Will Government for the sake of justice have a schedule of rates for *kuchha* houses prepared by experts, having regard to the present Public Works Department's rates of every district, for ready reference of the laymen who make valuation of the *kuchha* houses requisitioned under Defence of India Rule 75(A)(1) and also revise the schedule prepared for the valuation of trees, having regard to the present market value of fruits ?

(e) Have Government any information about the discontent prevailing in Assam, particularly in the district of Sylhet, over land requisition matters due to most unusual delay in payments and inadequate payments both for houses and trees ?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: (a) Attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the answer given to part (b) of starred question No 29 answered on the 8th February, 1944

(b) to (e) Information is being obtained and will be placed on the table of the House as soon as it is received

TRIAL OF BABU JAI PARKASH NARAIN

198. *Sardar Mangal Singh: Will the Honourable the Home Member please state

(a) whether Babu Jai Parkash Narain will be tried in a court of law, whether he will be tried alone or along with some other persons, and

(b) whether the sanction of the Government of India has been obtained for instituting this case ?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) and (b) The whole matter is under consideration and I regret I can give no further information with regard to it at present

RESTRICTIONS ON INTERVIEWS OF CONGRESS WORKING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

199. *Sardar Mangal Singh: Will the Honourable the Home Member please state

(a) what restrictions have been placed on interviews of the members of the Working Committee with their relatives, and

(b) whether any interview has taken place since the permission has been granted to the members of the Working Committee ?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) The restrictions are the same as for other security prisoners in Bombay. The Rules are in the Library of the House

(b) No

OMISSION OF INFORMATION RE BALANCE OF TRADE IN GOLD AND SILVER FROM THE RESERVE BANK REPORT

200. *Mr. K. C. Neogy: (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state the reasons why the balance of trade in gold and silver is not shown in the statement on the balance of trade in merchandise of British India in the Reserve Bank of India report on currency and finance for 1943-44 ? Will the Honourable Member be pleased to give this House the information thus omitted from the Reserve Bank Report ?

(b) What were the reasons for leaving the gold and silver market in India a free market, though the London and New York markets were controlled as stated in the above Report ?

(c) What were the average prices of gold and silver in New York and London, respectively, during the period covered by the Report, and the prices in India during the same period ?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) The answer to the first part is that disclosure of the information referred to, during war time, would be contrary to the public interest. For the same reason the answer to the second part must be in the negative.

(b) Government did not think it necessary or practicable in Indian conditions to fix and enforce maximum prices for gold and silver.

(c) The information required will be found on pages 27, 29, 77 and 79 of the Report in question

INDIA'S DOLLAR CREDITS.

201. *Mr. K. C. Neogy: Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state

(a) whether the amount of Rs 46.65 crores which according to the Reserve Bank Report on currency and finance for 1943-44, represents India's total balance of trade with the United States of America from 1938-39 to 1943-44, has been accounted for as Dollar credits.

(b) how much or what percentages of the total dollar credits have been set apart exclusively to India's account and not surrendered to the Empire Dollar Pool,

(c) whether the allocations, when the Empire Dollar Pool is dissolved, would be made on a *pro rata* basis, and

(d) the value of the Dollar securities surrendered to the Government of India since their notification, dated March 10, 1941?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) The balance of trade, the figures for four years for which are given on page 23 of the Reserve Bank's report on Currency and Finance for 1943-44, differs from the balance of payments between the two countries the figure for which may be larger or smaller than the figure for the balance of trade. It would be correct to say that dollar credits have been received by India equivalent in amount to the favourable balance of payments India has with the United States.

(b) The arrangement is that the total dollar earnings of all empire countries are surrendered to the Empire Dollar Pool from which each country draws dollars according to its needs. There is no fixed allocation between the sterling area countries.

(c) The arrangement to be made when Empire Dollar Pool is dissolved have not yet been considered.

(d) I would refer the Honourable Member to the answer I gave to part (a) of his question No. 4 on the 3rd November, 1944.

RELEASE OF DR. RAJENDRA PRASAD

202. *Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall: Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state

(a) whether Government is aware that there was a widespread feeling of expectation in Bihar over the release of Dr. Rajendra Prasad,

(b) if it is a fact that even the Government of Bihar recommended his release,

(c) who turned down the proposal for his release,

(d) if it is a fact that he was offered release on certain conditions,

(e) what those conditions were, and

(f) if it is not a fact that his health has considerably gone down due to an attack of asthma?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) No

(b) No

(c) There was no proposal

(d) No

(e) Does not arise

(f) Dr. Rajendra Prasad is a chronic asthma patient. He had an attack in September but it was reported early in October that his condition was satisfactory.

POLITICAL PRISONERS.

203. *Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall: Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state

(a) the latest figure of the political prisoners, security as well as convicts, in each of the Provinces;

(b) how many cases of the security prisoners have been reviewed since the promulgation of Ordinance No. III of 1944,

(c) how many security prisoners have been released in consequence of the review of their cases in each of the Provinces; and

(d) if the recommendations of the Tribunal instituted to review their cases have been given effect to in the matter of their release by the Provincial Government or the police had the final say even over the recommendation of the Tribunal?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) I lay on the table a statement showing the number of persons undergoing detention and imprisonment in the Provinces on 1st September, 1944, in connexion with the Congress movement

(b) Under the Law all cases of detention must be reviewed at least once every six months

(c) I gave the number 5,068 of releases since the beginning of this year in reply to question No. 93 on November 3rd

(d) So far as I am aware no such Tribunal has been appointed. It is certainly not required by law. Certain Provincial Governments may have appointed persons to advise them, but the review in every case is conducted by the Government concerned

Statement of persons undergoing detention or imprisonment in connection with the Congress Movement on 1st September, 1944

Province	Detention	Imprisonment
Madras	288	744
Bombay	290	532
Bengal	53	275
United Provinces	617	3668
Punjab	79	61
Bihar	271	4230
Central Provinces	136	534
Assam	165	149
North-West Frontier Province	44	27
Orissa	127	481
Sind	26	11
Coorg		
Delhi	21	234
Ajmer-Merwara	7	4
Baluchistan		..
Centre	4	
Total	2128	10950

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

CASES UNDER CRIMINAL LAW AMENDMENT (AMENDING) ORDINANCES INITIATED BY THE SPECIAL POLICE ESTABLISHMENT.

40. Sardar Mangal Singh: Will the War Secretary please lay on the table of the House the number of cases under the Criminal Law Amendment (Amending) Ordinances, No. XVI of 1944, No. XXIV of 1944 and No. XXXVI of 1944, which the Special Police Establishment initiated itself (i.e., not being made over by the Central Government in accordance with the provision of Ordinance No. 22 of 1943)?

Mr. O. M. Trivedi: Forty-six

INFECTUOUS INVESTIGATIONS BY THE SPECIAL POLICE ESTABLISHMENT.

41. Sardar Mangal Singh: Will the War Secretary please lay on the table of the House a list of cases up to date in which the investigations by the Special Police Establishment did not furnish adequate material for prosecution and the result of their disposal?

Mr. O. M. Trivedi: It is not in the public interest to give the information in the form asked for by the Honourable Member since it would involve disclosure of the names of persons who were suspected of misconduct but against

whom charges could not be proved after investigation I may add for the Honourable Member's information that out of a total of 667 cases investigated up to date by the Special Police Establishment, only 40 cases, were dropped for want of evidence and 120 cases, in which the evidence available was not sufficient to warrant trial in a court of law, were referred for Departmental action.

TRIALS UNDER ORDINANCE NO 29 OF 1943

42. Sardar Mangal Singh: Will the War Secretary please state the result of the trial of cases under Ordinance No 29 of 1943 as amended from time to time by the Special Tribunals and the result of the revisions of those cases by High Courts?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: The Special Tribunals have decided 64 cases, of which 45 have ended in conviction, nine in acquittal and ten in discharge.

In revision, High Courts have upheld the sentences awarded by Special Tribunals in all cases except two. In one, a sentence of imprisonment was modified to a sentence of fine only, and in the other a sentence of 1½ years' rigorous imprisonment and Rs 2,000 fine was modified to a sentence of six months' simple imprisonment.

EXPENDITURE ON SPECIAL POLICE ESTABLISHMENT, ETC

43. Sardar Mangal Singh: Will the War Secretary please state

(a) the expenditure up to date, year by year, of the Special Police Establishment (pay and allowances to be stated, separately),

(b) the expenditure up to date, year by year, of the Special Tribunals (pay and allowances, separately),

(c) the number of cases made over to the Special Police Establishment for investigation from the 1st March, 1944, to date, together with the result of their investigation,

(d) the result of cases reported for departmental action from the inception of the Special Police Establishment to date, and

(e) the amount of fine imposed in cases which were tried by Special Tribunals?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: (a) A statement showing the expenditure on the Special Police Establishment year by year is attached.

(b) A statement showing the expenditure on the Special Tribunals is attached.

(c) A statement showing the number of cases investigated by the Special Police Establishment from the 1st March, 1944, to date, together with their results, is attached.

(d) The result of cases reported for departmental action from the inception of the Special Police Establishment to date is given below.

Found guilty	67
Found not guilty	24
Pending	29
Total	120

(e) The total amount of fines imposed in cases which were tried by Special Tribunals is Rs 2,42,050.

(a) Statement showing the expenditure of the Special Police Establishment, War Department from June 1911 to October 1944, year by year.

Year	Pay Rs	Allowances, etc Rs	Total Rs
1941-42	37,355 7 0	23,993 7 6	61,348 14 6
1942-43	1,14,177 0 0	59,994 13 6	1,74,171 13 6
1943-44	2,19,520 2 0	1,37,369 1 0	3,56,889 3 0
1944-45 (Up to 31st October 1944)	1,71,268 11 0	1,15,989 11 0	2,87,248 6 0
GRAND TOTAL	5,42,311 4 0	3,37,347 1 0	8,79,658 5 0

(b) Statement showing the expenditure of the Special Tribunals, Calcutta, Lahore and Lucknow from September 1943 to October 1944.

Year	Pay Rs	Allowances, etc. Rs	Total Rs
From September 1943 to October 1944	2,47,420 0 0	63,970 0 0	3,11,390 0 0

(NB - The above figures are approximate).

(c) Statement showing number of cases investigated by the Special Police Establishment from the 1st March 1944, to date, and their result

Sent up for trial			Depart- mental action	Filed for want of proof	Under investi- gation	Total Number of cases
Convicted	Discharged	Pending trial				
11	1	25	17	6	114	174

TELEPHONIC MESSAGE TO SPECIAL POLICE ESTABLISHMENT, DELHI RE HARASSMENT OF MILITARY OFFICERS BY RAILWAY STAFF

44. **Sardar Mangal Singh:** (a) Will the War Secretary please state if it is a fact that on the 24th September, 1943, the War Department made a telephonic communication to the Special Police Establishment, Delhi, to the effect that military officers were being harassed by the Railway staff as they had to pay money for reservation of berths? If so, (i) who telephoned the message, and (ii) who gave the information to the War Department that military officers were being harassed and was the payment of money for reservation of berths unlawful?

(b) Was the information reduced in writing?

(c) Was any complaint lodged by any of the Military officers? If so, what is that in original?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: (a) No such telephonic communication took place

(b) and (c) Do not arise

MATERIAL SUPPLIED TO CERTAIN ACCREDITED PRESS CORRESPONDENTS

45. **Sardar Mangal Singh:** Will the Honourable Member for Information and Broadcasting please lay a statement of the material supplied to the Accredited Press Correspondents who were awarded category (A) privileges, and the extent of that material used by them?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: A statement giving the required information in respect of the period March 1944 to October 1944 is laid on the table of the House. Government do not feel that the labour involved in the collection of the information asked for in the latter part of the question would be justified in war time.

Statement of the material supplied to the Accredited Press Correspondents during the period March 1944 to October 1944

Month	Number of publicity items distributed to Press Representatives
March 1944	313
April 1944	300
May 1944	296
June 1944	215
July 1944	282
August 1944	283
September 1944	375
October 1944	363
Total	2,456

REVISION IN THE DIVISION OF ACCREDITED PRESS CORRESPONDENTS

46. **Sardar Mangal Singh:** Will the Honourable Member for Information and Broadcasting please state if any revision in the division of Accredited Press Correspondents has since been made? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: No. The matter is under consideration.

STATEMENTS LAID ON THE TABLE

SUMMARY OF PROGRESS ON RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FOODGRAINS POLICY COMMITTEE

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava (Food Member). Sir, I lay on the table a Memorandum showing the summary of the progress made up to the end of October 1944 on the recommendations of the Foodgrains Policy Committee.

SUMMARY OF THE PROGRESS ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FOODGRAINS POLICY COMMITTEE

CHAPTER 2—STATISTICAL POSITION

As mentioned in the last report on the progress made on the recommendations of Foodgrains Policy Committee steps are being taken in the permanently settled areas to obtain correct acreage statistics by field enumeration as is done in the rest of British India, Bihar, Bengal, Orissa and Assam are taking active steps to introduce a system somewhat like that prevailing in the U P and the Punjab for reporting correct crop areas. Experimental work is also being done in Bengal and Bihar on a randomised sample survey basis to determine both acreages and yields, at least of the major food crop viz., rice.

A large scale experimental scheme costing about Rs 90,000 in one year sanctioned by the Government of India has been carried out by the I C of A R to determine the yield of wheat in the major wheat growing districts of the Punjab and the U P. It has been estimated that the technique adopted is a good one giving an error of not more than 1 per cent. Arrangements have been made to obtain from two reliable banks fortnightly reports regarding crop and stock holding tendencies in the principal producing areas.

It may also be mentioned that at present all India forecasts of acreage and production are issued in respect of two food crops only viz., rice and wheat. The views of the Provincial Governments and Indian States have been received on the proposal to issue forecasts of kharif foodcrops other than rice and are being considered by the Government of India. The question of publishing all India forecasts of rabi food crops other than wheat will also be taken up shortly.

CHAPTER 3—GROW MORE FOOD CAMPAIGN

1 *Distribution of improved seed*—In 1943-44 the Government of India helped in the multiplication and distribution of improved seed by granting loans to the extent of Rs 95.72 lakhs and grants of Rs 18.42 lakhs from Central Revenues in addition to Rs 3.47 lakhs from the Cotton Fund. As a result 17.26 lakhs maunds of improved seed were distributed.

In 1944-45 further financial assistance has been given to the extent of Rs 75.1 lakhs as loans and Rs 25.5 lakhs as grants out of Rs 1.56 and Rs 47 lakhs respectively of loans and grants sanctioned from Central Revenues and 4.34 lakhs from the Cotton Fund for the multiplication and distribution of improved seed to cultivators on a subsidised basis. It is expected that as a result some 6.5 lakhs of additional nucleus seed of rice and wheat will be available, and that 18.81 lakh maunds will be distributed to ordinary cultivators. As a result of these measures production is estimated to increase by 4 lakh tons of grains.

Production of vegetable seeds of European type vegetables has been undertaken in Kashmir and Baluchistan. Financial assistance has been given to these two areas and it is expected that they will be able to produce 4,50,000 lbs. of such seed this year and to be largely independent of imported seed in subsequent years. Steps have been taken to ensure that all sales are made through Directors of Agriculture. Maximum prices have also been fixed for these seeds.

2 *Compost from Town refuse*—Under a scheme arranged by the I C of A R on behalf of the Central Government, on receipt of a special grant for the purpose, a number of biochemists deputed by all the Provinces have undergone a six-months course of training in the Bangalore process of composting night soil and town refuse. The trainees will inaugurate this work on those lines in selected Municipalities of their respective Provinces and would train others for the work. The work of manufacture of compost has now started in several municipalities in each province and it is expected that some 20,000 tons of such compost will be available for rabi sowings of 1944-45. Grants have also been given to the provinces for the production of compost from vegetable waste.

The use of green manure and oilcakes as manure has also been encouraged. Some 25,000 maunds of green manure seeds have been distributed and 9½ lakh maunds of oilcakes and 9,000 tons of bone meal given out to cultivators on a subsidised basis in 1943-44. In the current year schemes have been approved for the distribution of 28.9 lakh maunds of oilcakes, 40,000 maunds of bone meal and 28,000 maunds of green manure seeds. The export abroad of all kinds of manures (bone meal, oil cakes, etc.) has been strictly controlled.

3 *Chemical Fertilisers*—Supplies of chemical fertilisers from abroad are now beginning to arrive. All the indigenous production of sulphate of ammonia which could be made available for agricultural purposes has been arranged to be taken over by the Government.

STATEMENTS LAID ON THE TABLE

of India. The supplies from these two sources have been pooled and quotas assigned for various Provinces and States on the pre-war consumption basis.

The question of producing Ammonium Sulphate in India has been actively pursued. At a meeting held in April 1944 with representatives of provincial governments it was provisionally decided that the plant for manufacturing ammonium sulphate should preferably be owned by Government and that technical experts from the U. K. should be asked to come out to India and advise about the nature and location of the necessary plants. The technical experts have toured all over India and their report is awaited.

The financial assistance given for manurial schemes Rs. 53½ lakhs as loans and Rs. 27 lakhs as grants. The extra yield expected is about one lakh tons of foodgrains.

4 Irrigation and Drainage Schemes.—In order to bring new land under cultivation several minor irrigation schemes for pumping water from tube wells and river beds have been launched; help given to provinces in securing priorities for the release of plant, equipment and material, loans and grants sanctioned for the construction and repair of tanks, for the sinking and improvement of surface wells and for the reclamation of waste lands and field embankments. Altogether the loans sanctioned for these items come to nearly Rs. 63.73 lakhs, the grants sanctioned from Central Revenue Rs. 64 lakhs and from the Cotton Fund to Rs. 18½ lakhs. As a result, it is expected that a million acres of unirrigated land will be brought under irrigation, giving nearly 200,000 tons of extra food.

5 Depletion of India's milk and draught cattle.—The cattle position has become acute on account of increased demand for animals for cultivation, transport, milk and meat. An increase in the production of cattle cannot be dealt with in the same way as the increased production of food crops, breeding being a long range matter. It is proposed shortly to make some suggestions to provinces and States on this important matter.

In the meantime the military authorities have agreed not to slaughter (1) all cattle under three years of age, (2) male cattle between three and ten years of age which are used as or are likely to be used as working cattle, (3) cows between three and 10 years of age which are capable of giving milk, other than those unsuitable for bearing offspring, and (4) cows which are pregnant or in milk.

Provinces have been asked to issue similar instructions in respect of civilian slaughter houses and to establish some meatless days in a week where possible. A number of provinces have already introduced the latter.

6 Iron and steel for agricultural implements.—It has been estimated that 25,000 tons of iron and steel per quarter are required to meet the minimum demands for the whole country for implement-making and repair. Owing to the very difficult supply position regarding iron and steel it was not possible to secure for the whole country more than 6,872 tons for the third quarter of 1944 and 13,996 tons for the fourth quarter of 1944, of iron and steel of controlled categories, in addition to some tonnages of scrap and defective iron and steel which will become available during these periods. For the first quarter of 1945 a combined allotment of 25,271 tons of 'good' steel and 9,020 tons of 'defectives' and cuttings of different categories has been obtained for the whole country for the purpose of (a) Agricultural Implements, (b) Consumer Goods and (c) Unlicensed Sales. The various Regional Deputy Iron and Steel Controllers will distribute these tonnages in consultation and close co-operation with the Provincial and State Governments within their circles. The procedure for obtaining regular supplies in future has been explained to the Provincial Government and States who have been requested to furnish timely details of their actual requirements to the Deputy Iron and Steel Controllers in order to enable them to prepare correct forward estimates for obtaining the requisite quantities from the Priority Authority.

7 Supply of Fuel and Lubricating Oil to Agriculturists.—Under the decentralised control system, all Controllers of Supplies are now giving first priority to fuel oil genuinely required by agriculturists. The distribution system is understood to be working satisfactorily.

8 Regulation of Crop Production.—In order to get more out of the land already under cultivation steps have been taken to ensure that of the present cultivated area, an adequate part is sown with food as opposed to money crops. Provincial Governments have already co-operated in reducing the area under short-staple cotton and some of them have introduced or are considering introduction of statutory crop regulation.

Action for the compulsory restriction of the acreage under certain varieties of short staple cotton was first taken by Madras. It provided that if cultivable land is not cultivated it may be taken over for a certain period by the State and handed over to suitable persons for cultivation. It was also made compulsory for landlords to keep their irrigation works in order, failing which the State would do the work and recover the cost from the landlords.

Bombay also passed an Act in May 1944 to regulate the cultivation of crops with a view to grow more food, providing for the maintenance of the existing proportion of growing food crops and for guarding against diversion of areas under food crops to non-food crops by prescribing a minimum proportion of food crops to be grown.

9 Land settlement in Assam.—As mentioned in the last progress report monthly reports were called for from the Government of Assam on the progress of land settlement in that Province. These reports show that the total area newly settled during the period September 1943 to the end of August 1944 is 111,114. In addition to this, old encroachments have been regularised by granting settlement on 7,358 acres.

10 *Undermilling of Rice*.—It was reported in the last progress report that most provinces and States had followed the example of the Madras Government and had issued orders making compulsory the undermilling of rice. Certain other Provinces and States have followed suit after the said report. At present undermilling is enforced in Madras, Bombay, C. P., U. P., Bengal, Bihar, Assam, Orissa, Baluchistan and Coorg.

11 *Stores for Rice Mills*.—A committee has been formed consisting of representatives of 3 firms, which are among the largest importers and manufacturers of rice mills machinery in India to advise the Food Department on the best method of securing and distributing spare parts for rice mills, orders for which were collected from all Provinces and States. The Committee met on 16th September 1944 and its various recommendations are under examination.

In the meantime provision is being made for the importation of rice mill machinery and spare parts from the United Kingdom and North America in larger quantities.

CHAPTER 4—EXPORTS AND IMPORTS

Exports.—There has been no marked departure from the declared policy of the Government of India with regard to exports, which is that India shall cease to be a net exporter of foodstuffs and that during the present emergency no exports whatever of foodgrains shall be permitted except for the immediate requirements of ships, aircraft and isolated communities in neighbouring countries which depend on India for supplies. Recently it was found possible to allot 25,000 tons grain to Ceylon after meeting the requirements of deficit areas. There was no market for this surplus grain in the country and it would have gone bad if not put into consumption immediately.

Imports.—The Government of India are fully alive to the importance of arranging for imports and are continuously pressing upon H. M. G. the urgency of foodgrain imports on a scale adequate for current consumption, including military requirements and the establishment of reserves.

6,48,520 tons of foodgrains, mostly wheat, have been imported during the 12 months ending October 1944. In addition, approximately 380,000 tons wheat and wheat products are expected to be received during November, December and January. Thus the total quantity of foodgrain imports will amount to nearly 10,30,000 tons by the end of January next. H. M. G. will review the position again in November.

CHAPTER 5—ARMY PURCHASES

Co-ordination of the army demands for foodgrains and pulses is secured through the Food Department's Basic Plans. As regards other foodstuffs, Co-ordination Committees have now been set up at all Command Headquarters and these have split themselves up into provincial, regional and functional sub-committees. Altogether about 40 such bodies are working. They provide a clearing house of information and an authoritative forum for resolving difficulties and for the expression of the view points of Civil Administrations and States. They are securing a unified and co-ordinated system of procurement and attention to the requirements of civilians as well as the necessity for conservation of stocks for breeding and for seed purposes. The main objective is that the requirements of the Army are met with minimum disturbance in the markets and every effort is made to increase production by the Army units so that the Army offtake from available supplies is reduced to the minimum.

CHAPTER 6—PROCUREMENT

As reported in the last progress report the Government of India agreed with the Committee that a Central Government Foodgrains Monopoly is the ideal medium of procurement, but that for the time being it had to be ruled out of consideration by reason of the time factor. Since then the matter has been given considerable attention and the problems that have to be faced in proceeding towards a system of monopoly purchase have been examined. These are (a) finance, (b) storage, (c) likelihood of deterioration, (d) difficulty of finding experienced staff, (e) effect on public confidence, and (f) public co-operation.

It was decided to examine, in Provinces where monopoly purchase schemes are in force, how the practical difficulties have been surmounted by the various administrations. For this purpose a senior officer of the Food Department was deputed to visit those Provinces and States which have already established monopoly purchase schemes or a compulsory levy of grains from cultivators for the purpose of gaining first hand knowledge of the schemes in operation. He has just returned from tour and is compiling his report, which, when finished, will help Government in formulating future policy.

2 A Central Foodgrains Reserve approximating to about 5,00,000 tons was recommended by the Committee. A Depot was established at Karachi to hold a part of this resources; but storage accommodation available at other ports was neither adequate nor satisfactory. The Central Government have therefore embarked upon a scheme for the construction or acquisition of additional storage accommodation for imported foodgrains at certain port towns and elsewhere. The scheme has received the approval of the Finance Department in principle, and will provide storage accommodation for a total of 1,40,000 tons. At the same time it is proposed to extend the Depot already established at Karachi to its full capacity of 2,00,000 tons and make all preliminary arrangements for an additional 50,000 tons.

In addition a scheme for the construction of more and better storage accommodation for 175,000 tons at strategic points including railway stations, in the surplus producing areas is under consideration. It is proposed that the cost of construction for this scheme be shared equally between the Government of India and Provincial Governments. Replies from all Provincial Governments received in this connection are under examination.

A senior Officer of the Department of Food has also been placed on special duty to progress the various proposals for construction of storage at the ports and in various provinces.

3. The procurement systems set up by the administrations of Provinces and States show a marked diversity, varying from complete Government monopoly, as in Travancore and Cochin to the loosest form of Government Control as in the N.W.F.P. All procurement systems in force presuppose a certain measure of movement control—the control being stricter as the scope for private trade diminishes and progress is made towards a system of monopoly buying. Movements of grains under Government programmes are given a higher degree of priority by the railways than movements by private trade in cases where such private movements are still permissible. To enable the Central Government to exercise direction, superintendence, and control to a degree which is necessary to secure the effective discharge of the Central Government's responsibility for the success of food administration in India as a whole, the Provincial Governments have been asked to keep the Central Government closely in touch, through the Regional Food Commissioners with any important proposals for the modification of their existing procurement arrangements, and wherever possible, to obtain the Central Government's approval before actually introducing major changes.

4. Judicious requisitioning as an aid to procurement has been tried on occasions and has resulted in an improvement in supplies.

Supply of consuming goods.—(a) *Cotton Textiles*.—Ceiling prices were again reduced in September 1944. The reduction was at the rate of one anna in the rupee on the previous reduced prices as regards cloth and somewhat more as regards yarn.

Government's action hitherto in the sphere of control of cotton textiles has been directed mainly to ensuring that adequate quantities are supplied to the Indian Civil market as a whole and at reasonable prices. Government have now however decided to take on a further responsibility, to wit, that of ensuring that every part of India receives its due share of cloth. To this end India has been divided into certain zones, and Government will ensure that each zone receives its quota, of cloth determined on the basis of population. Proper distribution within the zone will be the duty of the Provincial and State Governments concerned. The proportion of India's output of cotton textiles which is available for civilian consumption after Defence requirements and certain essential civil exports have been met works out to about 12 years per head of the population per annum. This *per capita* availability has been taken as the basis of the quotas allotted to the various zones, but has been varied in certain places where the average normal consumption of the population is either somewhat greater or somewhat less than the rest of India.

(b) *Drugs*.—A marked fall in the prices of drugs has been noticeable during the past few months. This applies particularly to pharmaceutical chemicals and the important group of sulphur drugs. The fall is partly due to the import on Government account of large quantities of these items which are already being released to the trade. The supply situation in respect of proprietary medicine has on the whole radically improved although certain particular items such as Glucose 'D', Emetine and Infants Milk Foods are still in short supply.

(c) *Footwear*.—The position remains the same as previously stated.

(d) *Woollen goods*.—Towards the end of last year, roughly 50 per cent of the pre-war capacity of woollen goods in India was released for the manufacture of woollen goods for civilian consumption. To take up this released capacity, the Industries and Civil Supplies Department placed orders on mills for certain popular lines of civilian woollen goods. That Department has so far been arranging sale of these goods to the public through a limited number of dealers appointed by the Central Government. The quantities of these goods available, which has not so far been very considerable, have been allotted to dealers in different towns in proportion to the population of the town. In the colder provinces we have extended this scheme more fully than in the warmer Provinces. The Central Government have appointed dealers in all towns in Northern India having a population of more than 50,000. The goods are supplied to the dealers selected, at a price fixed for mill-station, and they have to sell them in retail at a price fixed by the Industries and Civil Supplies Department which allows a margin of profit of 12½ per cent over the f.o.r. mill-station price. In order to keep the goods moving into the market as quickly as possible and to keep the financial liabilities of the selected dealers as low as possible instructions have been given to mills to despatch the goods to the dealers in small lots as and when ready according to the transport facilities available. In 1945, it is hoped it will be possible to obtain a release of a capacity equivalent to 100 per cent of pre-war production for the civil consumers.

(e) *Cement*.—On account of shortage of supplies of cement for some time past, cement for civilian users was released in small quantities and no cement was released for building of private houses or for essential repairs to private buildings. From the beginning of

articles will not be at liberty to dispose of their goods after arrival except in accordance with the instructions of the Controller General of Civil supplies. For internal distribution the Controller General will appoint approved dealers throughout the country and it is only to them that the importer or producer is allowed to sell his articles.

To implement the provisions of this Order suitable machinery consisting for the present, of an Additional Controller General, 3 Deputy Controllers General and 3 Assistant Controllers General has been added to the Organisation of the Controller General of Civil Supplies.

CHAPTER 7—DISTRIBUTION AND CONSUMPTION (INCLUDING RATIONING)

Transport—As already reported in the last year's statement of progress made on the recommendations of the Foodgrains Policy Committee, a Director of Movements was appointed to take charge of the Transport Branch of the Food Department. His co-ordination with the distribution problem at every stage has helped to plan allocation under the Basic Plan in which the transport aspect has been given adequate consideration. The Basic Plans have, therefore, been more readily accepted by the War Transport Department. A further progress has been made in getting the Provinces to prepare their programmes of movements in a manner suitable to the railway requirements. With the close watch on the progress of programmed movements it has been possible to anticipate difficulties and to obtain special measures of assistance from railways through the co-operation of the War Transport Department.

2 Special mention may be made of the action taken to secure increased shipping at Karachi in order to relieve railways of the difficult all rail movements from the North to the South. Experience showed that despatches from the North to the South were generally behind programme and without this special assistance there was little prospect of meeting the full requirements of the south from the northern Provinces. An arrangement has now been arrived at with the War Transport Department whereby 60,000 tons of foodgrains will be despatched monthly from Karachi by steamers and country craft. This will make it possible to despatch foodgrains to the deficit areas of Travancore/Cochin, Deccan States, Malabar, Kathiawar, Bombay, etc., from Sind; Punjab, etc., by the sea route.

3 Maximum use is also made of the river transport available in the Eastern parts of the country. Boats available in Bengal and Assam are being utilised for moving rice from Assam to Bengal in addition to the local movements within the two provinces. An appreciable proportion of the Assam food supplies from the U P and Bihar is also arranged by the river route.

4 Now that the prospects of the Lease/Lend vehicles for civil requirements have improved, the Provincial Governments have been requested to make increasing use of road transport for the movement of foodgrains. A number of Lease/Lend lorries are now operating in the Eastern States, Orissa and Rewa State, where crops could only be obtained in the interior far away from rail head stations. These lorries have been of material assistance in easing procuring operations.

Rationing—

(A) *Progress of Rationing*—1 All the Provincial/State Governments in the country have accepted the need for food rationing of towns and cities and there are now 460 towns and municipal areas fully rationed or about to be rationed, representing a population of approximately 43,00,000 people who are covered by an assurance of sufficient food at controlled fair prices.

2 Bombay have already rationed 6 of their important towns, viz., Bombay, Ahmedabad, Surat, Poona, Nasik and Sholapur, also 91 smaller towns covering 90 per cent of the urban population therein. In the Madras Presidency, 84 towns have already been rationed and district-wide rationing of Malabar was inaugurated from 15th October 1944. Rationing in Greater Calcutta including the industrial area is working satisfactorily and the rationing scheme has been extended to Chittagong, Cox's Bazar, Mirsarai, Sita Kund, Double Mooring, Puchalaish, Hathazari, Fatichchapi, Raoran, Ramgunia, Patiya, Anwara, Baulkhal, Banekhal and Salkania. Preparations for the introduction of rationing in Dacca and Narayanganj are in hand.

3 The Punjab, although a surplus province, has inaugurated rationing in Rawalpindi, Amritsar and Lahore, and is shortly extending the scheme to five more of its largest towns, viz., Multan, Ludhiana, Simla, Sukkot and Jullunder. Sind, another surplus province has rationed Karachi and Hyderabad. Nagpur and Jabalpur have been rationed in C P. Enumeration has already been completed by the N W F P in Peshawar and all steps have been taken for the introduction of rationing there shortly.

4 Travancore and Cochin have introduced state-wide rationing which means both urban and rural population. Mysore has already rationed its four important towns and has a scheme for state-wide rationing.

5 Rationing was introduced in Delhi on 29th May, 1944. Quetta has been rationed in Baluchistan; Ajmer will be rationed shortly but partial rationing has already been enforced there from the 1st of May 1944. The Assam Rationing Scheme is operating in 8 towns of Assam partial rationing in 6 towns. Shillong has not, however, been rationed as yet.

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but preliminary steps have been taken. Abu, Mhow, Secunderabad and Civil and Military Station Bangalore have also been rationed.

6 The U. P. Government have introduced partial rationing in 39 regulated towns covering over 80 per cent population in five towns, viz., Cawnpore, Lucknow, Allahabad, Gorakhpur and Jhansi and 50 to 60 per cent in the rest. Its two towns, Azamgarh and Mau which are situated in deficit areas have been fully rationed. A scheme for full rationing of 11 towns has now been prepared. The other Provinces and States which have introduced rationing are Kashmir in Srinagar, the Deccan States, Hyderabad, Central India and Western India States in certain towns. Bihar have introduced full rationing in Patna and Jamshedpur and partial rationing in 10 other towns. Gwahar and Rampur have also been rationed.

7 The extension of rationing has brought to the forefront several rationing problems which have been under examination, e.g., rationing scales and composition, treatment of children and heavy manual workers, use of substitute grains, subsidisation, retail prices, industrial canteens and milk supplies.

(B) *Scales of Ration*—1 The minimum basic standard per adult per day has been laid down by the Foodgrains Policy Committee to be 1 lb., that is roughly $3\frac{1}{2}$ seers per week. In actual practice, some provinces have given a slightly higher ration than the standard mentioned above. While others have not found it possible to give this standard, the tendency of surplus provinces being to give ration somewhat higher than the standard recommended by the Food Grains Policy Committee.

2 The Government of India in the early times have adversely not tried to impose strict restrictions upon the different Governments, so that conditions have varied and it has required a good deal of effort to win over the people for introducing rationing.

3 The question of equitableness of ration scales is not so simple as would appear at first sight. All the foodgrains are not rationed everywhere and at different places the question of preponderance of the industrial population varies. In the Punjab only wheat and wheat atta are rationed in Peshawar is rationed whereas in the Punjab Presidency (excluding Multan city) only rice has been rationed. Moreover, the Northern and the North West provinces claim that their people are physically so constituted as to require a relatively greater proportion of foodgrain than the people in the Southern parts.

4 The question was raised before the Central Food Advisory Council at its meeting held on 20th July 1944 which was handled as follows—

"The Council is of the view that the present burden of an over all deficiency of food grains should be shared equally by all parts of the country and advocates the existing equality of ration scales. It therefore recommends that full rationing should be introduced in every province in all urban areas and that the basic ration per head should be uniformly 1 lb. per adult per day. It urges the Government of India to bring about uniformity in both these matters throughout India without delay."

5 The Government of India is disposed to accept the recommendations of the Central Food Advisory Council which have been communicated to all Provinces/Administrations/Residents, who have been asked to communicate their views urgently. The whole problem revolves round the supply position and the demands likely to be made by the deficit areas for increased quantities to raise the minimum size to 1 lb. per day. So long as there is any part of the country where the ration is lower than $3\frac{1}{2}$ seers per week there appears to be little justification for having a larger ration anywhere else.

6 The present aim in view of the overall shortage of supply (i) to equalise the size of the basic ration everywhere to the recognised minimum of $3\frac{1}{2}$ seers per week per adult, (ii) to include all grains moving under the basic plan in the ration everywhere, (iii) to ration pulses as separate from the cereal group and (iv) guided by the supply position, to allow the consumer to draw any proportion of his ration in any item within the group.

(C) *Composition of Rations*—1 So far as the composition of rations is concerned the policy of the Foodgrains Policy Committee has been to include all major foodgrains in general use in the particular areas concerned. In the Bombay Presidency, Sind, Hyderabad (Deccan) and C. P. wheat, rice, and millets have been rationed, in the Punjab and Baluchistan only wheat or atta, in Delhi and Bengal wheat and rice, and in Madras Presidency excluding Madras, only rice. Madras City has also rationed wheat with effect from 22nd October, 1944. In most of the States wheat and millets have been rationed while in others rice has been added. In the States of Cochin and Travancore, rice, wheat and dry grains have been rationed whereas in Mysore it is rice, wheat and ragi.

2 It will thus be seen that the composition of rations has depended upon the staple foodgrain of the area. It will not be an easy task to include all the foodgrains, although it would be advisable to do so.

3 As rice is in acute short supply the proportion to rice that can be drawn out of the group cereals is lower than that allowed for the other foodgrains. For instance, in Bombay out of $3\frac{1}{2}$ seers it is allowed to the extent of 1 seer and 10 chataks and in Calcutta up to $2\frac{1}{2}$ seers as against $3\frac{1}{2}$ seers of wheat. In Delhi rice is allowed upto 2 seers out of 3 seers and 15 chataks. In Cochin 53 oss is allowed out of a total ration of 12 oss. The only place where it is allowed in a greater proportion is in Travancore where it is 8 oss.

out of a total ration of 13 ozs Cochin has now been asked to raise the rice proportion to the Travancore level of 8 ozs

4 In the Southern areas, including Travancore and Cochin, efforts are being made to introduce alternative foodgrains on account of acute scarcity of rice. From among the dry grains the people there prefer jowar better than bajra and in allocating the millets people's preferences for a particular kind of foodgrain are taken into consideration.

(D) *Quality*—1 The Foodgrains Policy Committee had recommended that due attention must be paid to securing adequate quality (Page 68 of the Report). The main problem that was faced in this connection was the time lag between the purchase of the initial stocks and their being actually put into the hands of the retail dealers for distribution amongst consumers. Every attempt has been made to reduce this interval to the minimum so that the quality may not be affected by prolonged storage.

2 This problem of time affecting quality gets resolved as rationing progresses and the continuity of receiving fresh stocks at regular intervals is established.

3 Quality classification of the foodgrains made in several places meets many such complaints. The grains are also now being issued after being cleaned.

4 Inspection by the receiving agent at the railway station of delivery succeeds a prior analysis at the Government laboratory of the Province where the purchases are made. Subsequently, when the grain is stored or distributed, the rationing inspectors go round for constant inspection to guard against adulteration. At the retailers shops samples are kept in sealed bottles for verification and comparison by anyone who desires to do so.

(E) *Treatment of Children*—Generally speaking in most of the Provinces 50 per cent of the adult size of the ration has been fixed for the children and a child has been defined as a person between the age of 2 and 12 years. Several Provinces are now examining the possibility of giving full adult ration to children from 8 years and half rations from 0 to 8 years.

(F) *Use of Substitute Grains*—1 The Foodgrains Policy Committee has laid down that rationing should cover all major foodgrains in general use in the particular areas concerned and that, as far as possible, the taste and habits of the various communities should be respected, but it is also stated that no guarantee can or should be given to any section of the community that its habitual foodgrains would be forthcoming in the usual quantities. This has been necessitated by the acute shortage of certain foodgrains, chiefly rice.

2 This shortage of rice has greatly accentuated the problem in the South, especially in Travancore, Cochin and Mysore. Efforts are being made to substitute rice by the other grains which are available, e.g., wheat and millets. This involves publicity, practical demonstrations and laying down proportions of the ration for each grain so that these other substitute grains may be taken up by the people. The change in diet cannot be brought about suddenly, but urgent necessity requires urgent methods of treatment. The main problem, is to substitute other foodgrains of equal or better nutritional value for rice.

3 Nutritional experts by devising planned alternative combinations of foods with equal or even better nutritional value have prepared actual recipes which have been circulated to the Provinces and States concerned for practical demonstration and propaganda purposes.

4 Governments in the Southern parts of the country are trying to persuade the people to realise that by mixing the so-called coarse grains with their diet, they make it more balanced and not one which almost entirely consists of carbohydrates.

5 Cochin State have started a scheme under which free meals consisting chiefly of bajra preparations are served to school children suffering from mal-nutrition.

6 A Nutritional Section has been attached to the Nripatic War Services Exhibition in which actual demonstrations will be given for preparing dishes from nutritional foodgrains which will be served out to the people from an attached restaurant.

(G) *Milk Supply*—1 The question of milk supply has come to the forefront due to the acute shortage of milk in almost all the big towns of the country. Milk is not only short in quantity but it has deteriorated seriously in quality. In certain towns the poorer section of the people are unable to buy milk for their children due to the prevailing high prices. The question of increasing the supply of milk is not a simple one as it involves the improvement and conserving of cattle, cattle fodder and pasture.

2 Some Provinces have started tackling this problem by distributing milk at subsidised rates to children and/or prohibiting use of milk for such purposes as ice creams, etc. In Bombay, a 17 lakhs scheme has been enforced for supplying $\frac{1}{2}$ lb milk to the children at subsidised rates on issue of milk cards. In several other places export and slaughter of useful cattle have been prohibited and other measures have been taken to stop the use of milk for non-essential purposes.

3 The problem, however, requires concerted action between the Provinces and the Government of India. The question of increasing the production of milk lies within the area of Education, Health and Lands Department and the distribution with the Food Department. The Food Department is immediately concerned with providing pure milk at reasonable prices to priority consumers like children, hospitals, schools, and maternity welfare centres.

4 The Government of India have asked "for information from all the Governments in the country with a view to increasing the present short supplies in big towns and issuing model order for —

(a) Control of the use of milk in industr. for purposes other than food, e.g., plastics and glues

(b) The control of milk supplies to confectioners, hotels, restaurants and canteens and its use for such purposes as ice cream, cream cakes, and sweets

(c) The co-ordination and control of fresh milk supplies to the Defence Forces by local purchases

6 The Education Health and Lands Department which is responsible for increasing the production of milk has recently appointed a Dairy Development Adviser who will examine the present schemes and put up new ones for actual working

7 Similar schemes are being prepared or envisaged for the big towns in the country like Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta and Madras

(H) *Subsidisation and Retail Prices*—1 The question of subsidising the foodgrains sold under the rationing schemes is cropping up now and again. In most of the provisioning schemes in U. P. and Bihar the sales at least in the initial stages have been on subsidised rates, till it has been possible to bring the market prices down. Subsidisation is bound up with the price control schemes and to the extent that the prices are effectively controlled subsidisation may be rendered unnecessary

2 At present foodgrains are sold at subsidised rates to certain categories of the essential civil personnel e.g., to the Central Government servants drawing less than Rs 300 p. m. to Railway employees by the Railway Department through their own distributing stores and to the coal mine labour under what is commonly known as the "Young Plan"

3 In the case of coal mine labour the standard ration is given at the controlled rates and $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent of the net attendance is given free. There is also some extra monetary payment made for attendance according to the size of the family dependants

4 The policy of the Central Government is to discountenance any increase in dearness allowance in the shape of money as that would retard all anti-inflationary measures. Subsidisation on the other hand is primarily an anti-inflationary measure and a question to be considered is how far and to what categories of the people should subsidisation be extended, if at all. Its present existence in the case of the essential civil personnel is with a view to ensure that there is no weakening of such categories of workers as are essential to the national and to the war effort

(I) *Retail Prices*—1 It is necessary that under rationing these prices should be kept as low as possible to enable every one to buy foodstuffs. At present the prices that are fixed at different places depend upon the cost of the foodgrains procured and the differentials allowed to the wholesalers and the retailers. These differentials differ in various provinces due to the local conditions but the differences should not obviously be very great

2 There is of course no question of any local Government making a profit out of the rationing scheme but fixation of prices which are revised at regular intervals, is bound to bring in a certain amount of temporary profit or loss on account of the time lag involved. This in the long run is expected to get squared up. The prices fixed on the introduction of rationing are on the basis of the previous costs of stocks purchased at higher rates. These can be high as compared to the prices ruling at the particular moment

3 The solution of the problem of keeping the price as low as possible is, therefore, their periodic revision in conformity with the actual costs, which is being done

(J) *Heavy Manual Workers*—1 The idea underlying the grant of a supplementary ration is that it should be given to the heavy manual workers who need a greater quantity of the cereals. Generally 50 per cent of the basic ration is given as supplementary

2 One of the main difficulties has been to define a 'heavy' manual worker. In some cases it is not easy to draw a line between the heavy manual worker and the manual worker. The policy is that under rationing schemes there should be no provision for allowing any privileges to any class of persons not enjoyed by all other consumers, with the exception of defined heavy workers

(K) *Industrial Canteens*—It has been decided in consultation with the Labour Department that (i) Industrial Canteens should be encouraged (ii) additional quantity of rationed foods should be supplied to such canteens to be served as cooked food, over and above the supplementary ration for heavy manual workers where such quantities are now permitted

(L) *The future outlook*—1 Rationing has brought into the forefront some very important problems that the country will have to face in the near future and also when peace comes. Some of these problems are the increased production of foodstuffs, the development of cultivation of foodgrains and vegetables, the manufacture of chemical manure, of agricultural implements and other consumer goods necessary for the cultivator, the long range production of milk of involving the development of cattle fodder, pasture lands, the long quality of cattle breeds, the raising of the nutritional level of the diet for the majority of the at present under and mal-nourished populations, the substitution of particular kinds of

foodgrains with a higher nutritive value for those which have become and will remain in acute short supply for a considerable time to come, the introduction of communal feeding, not only in the industrial centres but also in the schools and other similar institutions and the popularisation of alternative dishes that could be prepared out of nutritionally superior foodstuffs amongst people who have been used to eating a nutritionally deficient diet.

2 Such problems have been brought into prominence as the direct result of control of foodstuffs by the Government and the introduction of rationing on a large scale. It is obvious that these will require long range planning.

CHAPTER 8—PRICES

* The Food Department set up a Price Advisory Committee under the Chairmanship of Sir Theodore Gregory, Economic Adviser to the Government of India, designed to provide the Government of India with expert non-official advice on prices which would reflect the point of view of producers and of the trade. The first meeting of the Price Advisory Committee was held on the 15th March, 1944 and on the recommendations of the Committee, the Government of India fixed the statutory maximum prices for wheat for the next twelve months at Rs. 9.8.0 at the primary assembling markets in the Punjab, and Sind, at Rs. 9.10.0 in N-W F P and at Rs. 10.4.0 in the U P. Maximum prices for barley and gram were fixed at 7/10ths and 8/10ths respectively of the maximum for wheat. The statutory maximum for coarse rice in the Punjab U P and N-W F P was also fixed at Rs. 13.8.0 per maund. Differentials on basic prices were allowed for deficit districts in the different provinces. The Indian States were asked to fall into line with the British Indian territories.

At the second meeting of the Price Advisory Committee held in August 1944, the Committee recommended that as it was impracticable to fix the prices of pulses on an all-India basis the Provinces which had not yet controlled prices at reasonable levels should be asked to do so in consultation with the Government of India, keeping in view the controlled prices of cereals. This recommendation is being implemented by the Government of India. The Committee also considered the question whether trading in futures or options in foodgrains should be prohibited. Opinion was divided and the whole question is being re-examined.

The question of fixation of prices for Kharif grains was considered at the third meeting of the Price Advisory Committee held on 9th October, 1944. The recommendations made by the Committee are under consideration and a final decision will be taken shortly.

2 The Government of India also considered the question of fixing minimum prices for major foodgrains and made an important announcement in April 1944 designed to support the wheat market in the interests of the cultivators in which they guaranteed to purchase all wheat of fair average quality offered in the main assembling markets of the Punjab, U P and Sind at Rs. 7.8.0 per maund.

In May 1944, in order to support measures to encourage the diversion to foodcrops of land under short staple cotton, the Government of India announced their willingness to purchase all jowar and bajra of the 1944-45 crop offered in the main assembling markets at the floor prices of Rs. 5.8.0 and Rs. 6 respectively throughout British India except Bombay. As regards Bombay, it was felt that special prices would have to be announced in view of the measures which were being taken to control the cultivation of foodcrops and accordingly the Government of Bombay have announced that the price of the 1944-45 millets crop will not be less than the current statutory price.

The offer to purchase millets at floor prices was extended to the Indian States.

CHAPTER 9—BASIC PLAN

In the formulation of the Kharif Plan (1943-44) and the Rabi Plan (1944-45) the Food Department have generally followed the formula recommended by the Foodgrains Policy Committee. The first version of the Kharif Plan was issued in October 1943. A revised version of the Plan was issued to Provinces and States in April 1944. In view of the admitted drawbacks of Indian agricultural statistics and the difficulty in assessing the requirements of the increase in population, natural or otherwise, it has not been found possible in practice to ask every area to accept the statistical surplus or deficit revealed by the formula. It is of interest to note that the rice surplus increased from the original figure of 768,000 tons to the revised figure of 919,000 tons as a result of efforts made by the Central Government to secure improvement in the declared surpluses in the light of the statistical position.

2 The Kharif Plan operative from November, 1943 to October 1944 and the Rabi Plan operative from May 1944 to April, 1945 cover about 2.9 million tons of Kharif (rice, millets and maize) and Rabi (wheat, gram and barley) grains including the requirements of the Defence Services. Against this total movement target, about 1.6 million tons were despatched under the two plans up to 5th October 1944. Out of the total quantity despatched the shares of the principal deficit areas were as follows:—

Bengal	280,000 tons
Bombay	334,000 tons
Tr / Cochin	187,000 tons

The details of quotes and despatches are given below —
(In '000 tons.)

Foodgrains	Total quota allotted (15.10.44)	Total despatches up to 5.10.1944	Percentage of despatches to quota
Rice	980	714	73
Millets	271	175	61
Maize	87	55	83
Wheat	1,207	645	54
Gram	357	56	16
Barley	61	26	43
Total	2,843	1,671	57

CHAPTER 10—FOOD DEPARTMENT

In order to associate public and expert opinion as closely as possible with the Central Government's policy for food administration, the Government of India decided to replace the old Central Food Advisory Council by a more widely representative body specifically to advise and assist the Departments of Food and Education, Health and Lands in the tasks relating to the country's food problems with which they have to deal.

The first meeting of the Council was held in the 3rd week of July 1944 in which about 40 non-official members participated.

A Sub Committee of the Council has been formed to look into the question of procurement and to advise Government as to the best methods of ascertaining and securing the surpluses of the growers and linking up production with procurement.

CHAPTER 11—FOOD GRAINS CONTROL ORDER

As a result of a close examination of the various suggestions made from time to time by the Provincial and State Governments for the improvement of the form of the Foodgrains Control Order, it was decided that the existing Order, which had been promulgated by the Central Government and brought into force by the notifications of the Provincial Governments should be progressively replaced by new Orders framed by Provincial Governments in the light of their own requirements and adapted to suit local conditions, but based on the existing Order. The application of the Central Order to the particular province will be cancelled by notification simultaneously with the promulgation of the local Order.

The Provincial Governments and Administrations were also requested to consult the Government of India before finally publishing their versions of the Order. Draft Orders from some Provinces have been received and are being scrutinised. The Central Order will cease to be in force in the N-W F P from 21st October, 1944, on which date the Provincial Order will come into force.

The penal clause of the existing Foodgrains Control Order has been amended so as to make it compulsory for the Court to order forfeiture of stocks in case of a contravention of the Order unless, for reasons to be recorded in writing, it is of opinion that the direction should not be made in respect of the whole or as the case may be, a part of the property.

The Provincial Governments and Administrations have been requested to make a similar provision in their Foodgrains Control Orders.

States have also been requested through the Residents to take action on the same lines. The functions and duties of Regional Food Commissioners have been reviewed afresh and Food Regions reshuffled in consequence of which the old Rajputana Region has been abolished and in its place following four food regions have been set up with their Residents as Regional Food Commissioners —

- (i) Rajputana Region.
- (ii) Central India States
- (iii) Gwalior States
- (iv) Western India States

The food regions generally conform to the groups of States with which Residents are in political relationship.

All correspondence between the Central and Provincial or States Governments has to be conducted through the Regional Food Commissioners and Residents acting as Regional Food Commissioners.

The staff of the Regional Food Commissioners has been greatly strengthened and it is proposed to appoint Deputy Regional Food Commissioners at all Provincial Head quarters.

LATEST RICE PRICES IN DISTRICTS OF BENGAL

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: Sir, I also lay on the table a statement showing the latest rice prices in the districts of Bengal.

Statement showing the latest rice prices in the districts of Bengal

Districts	Prices (wholesale) (in Rs per maund).	Date
Jalpaiguri	13 0 0 (R)	31-10-44
Birbhum	11 14 0 (R)	1-11-44
Midnapore	10 10 0	29-10-44
Bakerganj	10 8 0	1-11-44
Dinapore	11 12 0 (M)	31-10-44
	9 8 0	31-10-44
Dacca	to	to
	10 0 0	1-11-44
	7 8 0	30-10-44
Tippera	to	to
	8 0 0	1-11-44
	10 0 0	
Chittagong	to	30-10-44
	12 0 0	

Prices are wholesale except when (R) is mentioned against the quotation, in which case it is retail

(M)=Medium quality

Mr. N. M. Joshi (Nominated Non-Official) Sir, in view of the fact that there will be a debate now, will the Honourable Member circulate copies of the statement just now?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: It has been laid on the table

Mr. N. M. Joshi: We cannot read it now. To facilitate the perusal and study of it, will the Honourable Member see that copies are circulated to Members, especially as we are now engaged in the food debate?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) How many pages is it?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I have just handed it over—it is the only copy I have. It runs into many pages—17 pages of type. I shall have to find out how many copies I have got. I understand there are only six copies.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I ask, is this the way that Government should treat the Legislature—laying a statement on the table while the debate is going on, without supplying copies to the Members?

MOTION RE FOOD SITUATION—contd.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) The House will now proceed with the debate on the motion that the food situation in India be taken into consideration. I think Mr. Deshmukh was in possession of the House.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh (Nagpur Division Non-Muhammadan) Sir, last time I dealt with the long range policy regarding food which should have been begun long ago, and I pointed out that His Majesty's Government was not co-operating with us in earnest, and I gave an illustration that we were not supplied with tractors which were very necessary to carry out this plan. I also said that the demand for the reduction of prices of agricultural produce was most unreasonable. The amendment which I support says that at present the prices are so uneconomical that they hit the growers hardest of course it also speaks for the consumers, but I will let the consumers look after themselves—I am more concerned with the producers. At present things are like this: if any tenant wants to take land on lease for the purpose of cultivation—say about 12 or 13 acres—he divides it into cash crop and food crop and fodder crop, in order to meet his expenditure and other necessities. He retains half of the crop for himself and pays the other half to the owner of the land. Out of his 50 per cent he has to meet the expenses of the cultivation. And in places where land is not cultivated under irrigation, this eventually results in

[Mr Govind V Deshmukh]

a net loss of two to three rupees per acre. You have merely to make inquiries and you will find it is so, where there is no irrigation and where people carry on dry farming, there is no guarantee that the cultivator will get a normal crop. A shower more or a shower less may dash his hopes. Under such circumstances he is worse off than the person who cultivates his land with the help of irrigation. In either case the lessee who takes the land on lease or the tenant cannot meet the expenses out of the produce which he gets out of the land. Not only that, not only he incurs loss, but he has no reserve to fall back upon. We know the veterinary service is not efficient in the villages; supposing his bullocks die, how can he replenish a pair of bullocks or any other material—for instance, his agricultural implements? He has no reserve or depreciation fund to fall back upon or to look after his children if they get ill. Even on the present basis of prices the agriculturist, an agriculturist, who has no profession either of money-lending or is not a lawyer or doctor or has no other subsidiary means but merely depends on his agriculture,—he is in the worst possible position. Having nothing to fall back upon he has to borrow from somebody—a co-operative bank or the ordinary moneylender, as the only source of meeting these necessities. Therefore it will be found that prices are most uneconomical even at this stage, and yet what is the procedure followed by the Food Member. Every year when the crops are going to be reaped, he revises the prices and he reduces the prices because the demand is for the reduction of prices.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava (Food Member) For your benefit!

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: I am not benefited. I am an agriculturist. You may be doing it in the name of the consumers. I asked a question—No 129—yesterday—How do you bring down the cost of living. The answer was 'by reducing the prices of agricultural produce'. You have done almost nothing to bring down the prices of other articles. I cannot go very deeply into that just now but fortunately for me no question was answered yesterday, and the Honourable Commerce Member said "This is all that I can do". But what has he done? He has brought down the price of rice from the level of 80 or 40 to the level of 20. It is not in the interests of the agricultural producer. You should have brought down the prices of other articles more than you have done. He says to me "You refer to the other departments". In other words, the only remedy to satisfy the demands of the non-producers is to reduce the price of agricultural produce—a very ruinous policy. As I said, there will be no incentive to produce. Are you going to rely on the cultivator whose strength you have sapped whose life-blood you have sapped, because he cannot even get enough food for himself and his family?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) The Honourable Member has got one minute more.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: He cannot get anything to rely on. He has no food to maintain himself let alone nutritious food—and you expect these despondent and disheartened agriculturists who have nothing to maintain themselves, on, to feed you. I say therefore that it is a most ruinous policy to bring down the prices. The present prices are most uneconomical and in the interests of the producer, the prices should not be reduced hereafter. What happens in England and other countries? There they have given a guarantee that the prices shall not be reduced but here the Food Department of the Government of India reduces prices every year when the crops are in sight. This is a very bad policy. (An Honourable Member "What is the remedy you suggest?") As I said last time, Government should subsidize the agriculturist. You must give something to the agriculturist for the purchase of cattle, seeds, grams and other amenities of life. Your present policy will not do.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) The Honourable Member's time is up.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar (Salem and Coimbatore cum North Arcot Non-Muhammadian Rural) I have given notice of an amendment I have given the required notice under the Standing Order

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) I cannot allow that at this stage. If I allow it now, I cannot prevent the speakers who have already spoken from speaking again on this amendment

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: It is open to you, Sir not to allow them to speak but under the Standing Orders I am entitled to make this motion even after the discussion has begun.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) I cannot allow the speakers who have already spoken to speak again on this amendment. That is the difficulty

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: We have no objection to that

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) If they insist on speaking, I cannot prevent them. I cannot therefore allow the amendment to be moved at this stage

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: I will not speak again

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Under the Standing Orders I am entitled to move an amendment

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) This comes too late. If it were a consequential amendment, that would have been a different matter. But if the speakers who have already spoken will not speak again, then I will allow this amendment to be moved

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Very well Sir. I move—

"That the following be added at the end of the motion

"having considered the same, this House is of opinion (1) that the prices fixed for paddy and other food grains should be revised in view of the present circumstances, and in considering the level of prices of food grains appropriate to a particular area, regard should be had to (a) the cost of articles entering into the cultivators' cost of production, (b) cost of articles entering into his standard of life and (c) cost of cultivation of marginal lands, as it obtains at present cost levels,

(2) that having in view the enormous amount of corruption created by the fact that revenue and other officers have been entrusted with the duty of issuing licences for purchasers and distributors of paddy and rice, wheat and other food grains, these licences in the districts and taluks shall be issued on the advice of the advisory board, attached to the districts and taluks and to co-operative societies wherever available,

(3) that peasants shall be given the choice of supplying food grains either in the shape of paddy or rice, wheat or atta and thus be entitled to eliminate the profiteering now being made by millers, and

(4) that every effort be made to review and reduce the margins of profits now allowed to various agencies of middlemen,

(5) that the responsibility of the Central Government should not cease with mere allotment of food grains but it should extend to seeing that their allotments reach the deficit or needy areas and that no invidious distinction shall be made in distributing rations between civilian population and those who are the relatives of people in the armed forces and also between the urban and rural peoples, and that all needy people, whether living in town or villages be granted equal rations"

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) The remaining portion of para (5) cannot be moved, as it raises other matters

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: I will omit that portion

"(6) that in cases of districts experiencing great scarcity, district-wise and equitable rationing shall be organised,

(7) and that to meet the food deficit in this country, apart from the measures taken to tide over the present difficulties,

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) That cannot be moved

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Why, Sir? This refers to the long range policy. The Food Grains Policy Committee has made mention of this

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) That may be but this is a different question

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: All this is connected with the question of increased production of food. The Honourable Member spoke about all these in his opening speech. He is looking far ahead

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Guntur cum Nellore Non-Muhammadian Rural) He is looking very far ahead

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) Very well, I will allow it in that case

Mr. T. S. Avinashlingam Othettiar:

'other measures of a permanent character such as that of new irrigation schemes; manufacture of fertilizers, fixation and maintenance of minimum prices of food grains shall also be taken up as soon as possible'

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) Mr Chattopadhyaya will now move his amendment

Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya (Burdwan Division Non-Muhammadan Rural) Sir, I move

"That the following be added at the end of the motion

"In view of the fact that the system of procurement and distribution of essential food-stuff adopted by the Food Department of the Central Government has not succeeded so far to alleviate the difficulties and inconveniences of consumers in Bengal and in other affected provinces as well the co-operative system of production, distribution and consumption be introduced and adopted in the affected provinces specially in Bengal by setting up Co-operative Producer, Distributor and Consumers' Society registered under the Co-operative Societies Act"

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) Amendment moved

"That the following be added at the end of the motion

"Having considered the same, this House is of opinion (1) that the prices fixed for paddy and other food grains should be revised in view of the present circumstances, and in considering the level of prices of food grains appropriate to a particular area, regard should be had to (a) the cost of articles entering into the cultivators' cost of production, (b) cost of articles entering into his standard of life and (c) cost of cultivation of marginal lands, as it obtains at present cost levels,

(2) that having in view the enormous amount of corruption created by the fact that revenue and other officers have been entrusted with the duty of issuing licences for purchasers and distributors of paddy and rice, wheat and other food grains, these licences in the districts and taluks shall be issued on the advice of the advisory board, attached to the districts and taluks and to co-operative societies wherever available,

(3) that peasants shall be given the choice of supplying food grains either in the shape of paddy or rice, wheat or atta and thus be entitled to eliminate the profiteering now being made by millers, and

(4) that every effort be made to review and reduce the margins of profits now allowed to various agencies of middlemen.

(5) that the responsibility of the Central Government should not cease with mere allotment of food grains but it should extend to seeing that their allotments reach the deficit or needy areas and that no invidious distinction shall be made in distributing rations between civilian population and those who are the relatives of people in the armed forces and also between the urban and rural peoples, and that all needy peoples, whether living in town or villages be granted equal rations,

(6) that in cases of districts experiencing great scarcity, district-wise and equitable rationing shall be organised;

(7) and that to meet the food deficit in this country, apart from the measures taken to tide over the present difficulties, other measures of a permanent character such as that of new irrigation schemes, manufacture of fertilizers, fixation and maintenance of minimum prices of food grains shall also be taken up as soon as possible"

The next amendment moved is

"That the following be added at the end of the motion

"In view of the fact that the system of procurement and distribution of essential food-stuff adopted by the Food Department of the Central Government has not succeeded so far to alleviate the difficulties and inconveniences of consumers in Bengal and in other affected provinces as well the co-operative system of production, distribution and consumption be introduced and adopted in the affected provinces specially in Bengal by setting up Co-operative Producer, Distributor and Consumers' Society registered under the Co-operative Societies Act"

Mr. Akhli Ohandra Datta (Chittagong and Rajshahi Divisions Non-Muhammadan Rural) I propose to place before the House the actual food position in Bengal and I shall therefore limit the scope of my speech. The Honourable the Food Member has said that so far as rice is concerned, the food position is now easy over practically all parts of Bengal. My submission is that it is not at all a fair statement of the position in Bengal. It does not bear the true picture of the Bengal food position. My contention is that so far as rice is concerned, there is still at least semi-famine in Bengal and so far as other foodstuffs—other than foodgrains—are concerned, there is the most acute famine in Bengal at the present moment. In fact, it is greater than what it was in 1943. Even now people are dying of starvation in Bengal. The

Calcutta daily papers publish every day the number of people who die of starvation in Calcutta. As regards the rural areas, of course we have not got the figures because there is no machinery for the death statistics of the rural areas. But in Calcutta the figures are published at the instance of the Calcutta Corporation.

Now, Sir, meetings of officials and non-officials are being held all over the province in order to discuss the ways and means to combat the scarcity of rice in several parts of the province. A public meeting of officials and non-officials was held the other day at Bakarganj and it was said by their District Magistrate that people were literally dying of starvation in various parts of the district. As you know, Sir, Bakarganj is the granary of Bengal and if that is the position there, we can well imagine what is the position in other districts.

Now, Sir, the Honourable the Food Member made a statement not long ago—probably it was in July last—speaking of the Bengal situation, that “admittedly the situation was serious in some parts still I do not deny it.” That was his statement. He now says that it is easy practically all over Bengal.

Now, what is the actual position? The ruling market price today is at least four times the pre-war price. Of course, the price of rice has gone down as compared to the one prevailing in 1943. In 1943, the price was Rs 25, Rs 30, Rs 35 and in some cases even Rs 50 per maund. Now it has been reduced, according to the Honourable the Food Member, to something like Rs 15. This has given some relief to that class of people whose power of purchase does not go up to Rs 20, Rs 30, Rs 40 and Rs 50 per maund, but it does not give any relief to those people whose power of purchase is not such as to be able to purchase rice at Rs 15, and the vast bulk of the population belong to this category. The majority of the people cannot possibly purchase rice at the rate of Rs 15 per month.

Now, Sir, the whole question is that the price now prevailing in Bengal is not such as to be within the reach of the majority of the population. We have to remember in this connection that even during the normal times many people had to go without a square meal and the price of rice then used to be Rs 2-8-0 to Rs 8-8-0 per maund. We also know that the *per capita* availability of rice even in normal times was very low. We have been told by the experts that there is a serious under-nourishment of about one-third of the population of India even during the normal times. Therefore, my submission is that although the price of rice has fallen, the relief has been afforded only to a handful of people and the vast majority has not got any relief. The difference between 1943 and 1944 is this. In 1943 the death was prompt in 1944 the death is deferred. It is the gradual death, inch by inch. In this connection, I might be allowed to quote the statement of Mr Amery which he made in the House of Commons some time ago, I think it was in July last. He said: “The number of deaths in Bengal famine exceeded the total casualties through enemy action during the first four years of the war throughout the whole Empire.”

The other day we were told by Sir Henry French that there was not a single case of death by starvation in Great Britain during the war.

The Honourable the Food Member has confined his attention and his activity to what is called the cereal food only. He has not given the slightest thought to what is called the protective food. Now, Sir, food in Bengal does not mean rice only. People cannot live on rice only. They must have other food-stuffs which are as essential for a man's life as rice is. For instance, they must have vegetables, milk, fish, meat, ghee, eggs and so on. Now, there is no manner of doubt that the price of this protective food has risen in 1944 considerably over the level of price during the famine time in 1943. A statement is published in the *Statesman* very lately which shows that meat and ghee are now prohibited luxuries, almost unobtainable, and that fish is selling now at a price which is 111 per cent not above the normal price in normal times but above the price of 1943. The same is the case with vege-

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tables. On the average the prices of vegetables have gone up by 118 per cent over the level prevailing during the dark days of the famine of last year. The rise in prices has involved self-denial in a variety of articles of food on the part of many people. The price of almost all foodstuffs other than rice have increased by 120 per cent and in some cases by 200 per cent. Now what is the position in Bengal? My contention is that taking the two fronts of food, namely, cereal food and protective food, taking the food as a whole, the situation in Bengal is that the distress is far more acute in 1944 than in 1943. Unfortunately for us, it appears that the second food front has escaped altogether attention of the Honourable Food Member. He has not been able to achieve substantially and effectively anything as regards the staple food crop, not to speak of any other kind of food crop. A question was asked the other day and the Honourable Food Member showed his absolute ignorance of the position of other foodstuffs in Bengal. When his attention was drawn to newspaper reports, he said he didn't see them. I do not know if he has really examined the food position in Bengal. The Honourable Food Member was very eloquent and very enthusiastic with regard to future plan not only about cereal food but also about protective food. He says there must be definite plan for production, for procurement, for price control and for distribution not only of cereal food but also of protective food. The present does not seem to worry him at all.

I want to draw the attention of the House to one very important fact, namely, the waste of food that has been allowed in Bengal. Food has been allowed to deteriorate and decompose and reduced to a state absolutely unfit for human consumption. If the deterioration is confined to one or two instances or even to four or five instances, it might not matter so much. But it is clear that there has been waste throughout the country in 1944, not in one isolated instance, and in quantities which are not negligible, in huge quantities. Particularly we have to remember the waste in the Botanical gardens at Sibpur where decomposed foodstuffs had to be carried in about 200 lorries engaged throughout day and night for seven days consecutively in order to clear the decomposed food, to be thrown into the marshy places. A huge quantity was thrown out. We have been told that in the Government storage also a huge quantity of foodstuffs became unfit for human consumption and they are now being sold to people for non-food purposes. What happened in Khulna? In Behal, huge quantities were stocked for export to Bengal, but they were not sent. They got decomposed, unfit for human consumption. There is an interesting story about Nayanganj. Food in the possession of Government became rotten, unfit for human consumption, and the traders in rice were asked to purchase them. They refused to do so because the foodstuffs were unfit for human consumption. The result was that notice was served on the traders to show cause why their licences should not be cancelled as they refused to purchase the Government stock. We have heard the defence and the apology of the Honourable Member about waste. The Honourable Member said it is unavoidable. My submission is, is this waste really unavoidable? It was said that the Government had no provision for accommodating the foodstuffs, and that there was no place for storage. If you have no provision for storage, why then do you store at all? Why not distribute them to all people who are dying for want of food? Deterioration and decomposition do not take place in the twinkling of an eye. It takes some time. Why don't you take some step when it appears that there is a likelihood of decomposition and deterioration? Why not hand it over to dying people, why not give this food to the dying people before it gets decomposed. Why do you distribute the food that is decomposed at a time when it is unfit for consumption? Is it merely to kill people by making them to eat the consumed food? So, it appears that two things are going on in Bengal, side by side waste on one side and starvation on the other side. Scarcity in the midst of plenty. I ask why this state of things is allowed to happen. Is there no Government in this country to look after the poor people who are dying in

thousands Why should the Government allow food to be wasted when people are dying? Is there no Food Department, is there no Civil Supply Department? Is there no civil administration, no military administration? There is a huge army of officers appointed recently on very fat salaries What are these people doing? I must say that the food administration in this country is inefficient, indifferent, irresponsible, callous, inhuman and as rotten as the rotten food you want to dispose of It is time that there should be a complete overhaul of the food administration

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed (Leader of the House) Where?

Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta: As I said at the beginning of my speech, I am confining my remarks to Bengal If there is something rotten in Bengal, the Food Member cannot simply say it concerns Bengal and he has no concern in it

Sir Cawasjee Jehangir (Bombay City Non-Muhammadan Urban) Does this foodstuff belong to Bengal Government or to the Government of India?

Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta: It comes to the Bengal Government from the Government of India

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh (Bombay City Non-Muhammadan Urban) at a profit?

Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta: Yes, at a profit here and at a profit there also The chief reason is the presence of the overseas forces The whole Bengal is now an armed camp

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) The Honourable Member has one minute more

Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta: And their purchasing power has produced this state of things It is very interesting to note that whereas Indian soldiers serving overseas are supplied food by India, the overseas soldiers resident in India are fed by us The real fact is that the needs of the civilian population have been sacrificed to those of the military

In conclusion I will say only this that the Bengal situation is still so very grave and so very complicated that I plead for rescue operations there as recommended by the Gregory Committee

Mr. P. J. Griffiths (Assam European) Sir, the subject of our discussion today seems to me on an entirely different plane from that of many other topics which from time to time engage our attention in this House For with regard to many of those subjects there is room for reasonable difference of opinion not only as to methods but even as to the aims and objectives which we should set before us When, however, the issue is the food policy of the Government of India, there can be only one objective and one aim,—that aim is to secure that the people of this great country are fed and that we avoid a repetition of that great calamity which overtook us last year, a calamity which resulted not only in the deaths of many hundreds of thousands of people, not only in untold misery to countless others, but also in a very serious lowering of the prestige and the reputation of this country and its administration in the eyes of the civilised world

In approaching such a subject we need necessarily do so in a spirit somewhat different from that which animates many of our discussions in this House We are not here today to score debating points, to bait Government or to wrangle with this or that section of the House We are here, as I see it, for three purposes, first, to give sober and careful consideration to the food policy of Government, secondly, to examine and appraise the administration of that policy, and thirdly, to suggest those changes which in our view are required both in policy and in administration

We in this Group have paid the closest attention to the food problem, not only since the shortage became acute but from the days before that, when to the business world, though perhaps not to Government, it was clear that

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trouble was coming. There is a twofold reason for the particularly keen interest which we have taken in this subject. First there is the fact that as great employers of labour we are brought into practical contact with the actual difficulties that arise in time of shortage. In this connection I want to deal very briefly with the criticism which has sometimes been levelled at the Chambers of Commerce and at the other bodies which have thought it necessary to make forward provision for the food of their employees. We have been criticised, we have been told that we have acted unfairly, that we have laid up undue stocks, that we have been prepared to sacrifice the general public for the sake of our employees. Sir, I am not seriously disturbed by that criticism. If in an era like this, the worst charge which can be brought against the capitalist is that of being over-anxious and over-careful for the welfare of the labourer for whom he is responsible, I think no capitalist need be unduly troubled about an accusation of that kind. We do acknowledge our responsibility in the matter of seeing that those upon whose labour our profits are based are adequately fed. But there is a second reason for the particular interest we take in this problem, and that is the knowledge that in our own country, in spite of great shortage of supply, the food situation has been handled in a way which provides a model of good administration. We are impressed with the contrast between the administration of the food situation in Britain and that from which we have suffered in this country. Early in the present year I had the good fortune to pay a brief visit to my own country. I went with some apprehension, I went expecting to find that people were going hungry. I had not been two days in that country before I realised that in spite of great reduction of supplies there was no such thing as hunger; rich, poor and middle classes,—all were being adequately fed. The diet may be monotonous but there was no question of anybody going short. And I was tremendously impressed with the way in which the food administration of Britain had succeeded in bringing about complete equality of sacrifice. You are not better fed in Britain today because you happen to be better off than somebody else. The second thing that impressed me was the great routine efficiency in small matters of the food administration in my own country. Let me give you a small illustration. I went home by plane. I went straight from the aerodrome to the railhead nearest my own town and I arrived at that station at half past nine in the morning. By five minutes past ten I had received my identity card, my ration books for food and my clothing ration book. Contrast that with what happens in this country. Not so long ago I happened to be transferred from one large city to another. The rationing problem did not affect me personally as I was going to live in a club, but it affected my servant. It took three weeks, ten visits of my servant to the office and three personal letters from me before that unfortunate man could get his ration card. And he told me on the strength of his own knowledge of other people's experience, that he considered himself very lucky in getting it in three weeks merely because I had written to some of the people concerned. That is an example of the contrast between the efficiency of the administration of food in one country and another. It does indeed seem to be a paradox that in India which is very nearly self-sufficient in food, where the actual shortage is small in percentage, there has been starvation, chaos and confusion, whereas in Britain where supplies have been very severely reduced these evil features have not occurred. In saying this I am not unmindful of the tremendous difference in circumstances between the two countries. I am not forgetting the fact that it is far easier to control food supplies and distribution in a country where the number of farmers is limited, where most of the supplies depend on imports which can easily be controlled at source, as compared with this country where the food supply depends upon the efforts of millions of cultivators. I am not unconscious of that difference; nor am I unconscious of the fact that it is far easier for Government to administer food policy when it has behind it the support of a keen, alert public conscience, than in this country where,—I say this in no offensive spirit,—that conscience is not yet as highly developed as it will

have to become. (A voice. "That is the fault of Government.") It may be so I am at the moment not concerned with faults but with facts. Whoever may be at fault, the fact is that in my own country the black marketeer,—and he does exist there as everywhere else in the world,—gets very short shrift from everybody concerned and from Government. When he is hauled up before a court he gets a sharp deterrent sentence, he is not let off with a nominal fine. But apart from the action of the courts he at once finds himself an object of social obloquy, he finds that the other people in his own neighbourhood do not want to have anything to do with him, and he has to go about ashamed of himself for some considerable time to come. In this country that does not happen. On the one hand the administration is lax in enforcing deterrent sentences against those who offend, and, on the other hand, that man does not receive sufficient practical condemnation from the people with whom he has to live. Let public opinion become real and alive on this subject and you will very soon find that administration has to respond. In most matters and in most countries administrations tend to lag behind public opinion.

In this matter if public opinion is active, I am certain that the administration will soon be forced into greater and more effective activity.

But in spite of all these differences in circumstances, it is still worth asking the question as to why food administration in this country has fallen short of the standards achieved in Britain. The first and main reason seems to me to be this. That in Britain food policy was thought out, and laid down to its last details, before the onset of the present war. Staff was selected, trained, ready to take up its place the day war was declared. In this country, by way of contrast, we had a long period of hesitation, confusion, vacillation, an experimental period, a period of trial and error at a time when trial and error meant death for many people.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad (United Provinces Southern Divisions, Muhammadan Rural). It is still in experimental stages.

Mr. P. J. Griffiths: I need only remind you of the different stages through which the policy of the Government of India and the Provincial Governments passed. I may say briefly that first you had what I call the 'comic period', although it ought perhaps to be called the tragic period. It was the period when, at any rate in the some provinces, the District Magistrate was a law unto himself.

An Honourable Member: He is still.

Mr. P. J. Griffiths: In some matters he ought to be so, but not over food.

Sir, I toured through some parts of the particular province at the time concerned and in the space of two days I saw three different District Magistrates who held different opinions and acted on them. The first gentleman said that prices must be kept down to ease the situation and help the consumers. The second gentleman said that prices must go up to help the cultivator. Number three was a comfortable man who said, "I think on the whole the best policy is not to bother."

Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury (Bengal Landholders). That is a recommendation for the I.C.S. officers.

Mr. P. J. Griffiths: Sir, I cannot stop to answer that somewhat childish interruption.

It is not difficult to imagine what the result of this variation of policy was. Grain was pouring into the district-boundaries with no arrangements for its distribution and sale. You had a great orgy of profiteering and speculation which months later began to make its effects felt on the unfortunate people who lived in those districts. That was the comic or tragic period, whatever you may like to call it.

Then you come to the attempt of Government to fix maximum wheat prices without getting control of stock and without any adequate control over movements. That was bound to result in confusion, as the result Government had to decontrol prices. That again led to the period of disaster from which Government tried to rescue us by the Basic Plan. The Basic Plan was excel-

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 lent as a plan, but it quite ignored the fact that there is such a thing as provincial autonomy and that provinces might not accept the views of the Central Government as to how much grain a particular province could be expected to contribute. The failure of that plan led us into a stage where Calcutta was on the borders of starvation and many deaths due to starvation had actually taken place. Calcutta was rescued by Government's permitting temporary reversion to free trade. I personally believe that at that particular time reversion to free trade was necessary, but, nevertheless, we all know the disastrous consequences which it brought in its train a little later.

From that stage we came on to the evolution of free trade, to what I may call the New Basic Plan, or the plan which is now in force. There have been, as I said, two years of vacillation, hesitation and experiment. That phase, I am inclined to believe, has now passed. The Report of the Foodgrains Policy Committee last year, whatever its drawbacks may have been, did for the first time lay the foundations of a rational coherent food policy. I congratulate Government on at last having managed to evolve a policy of that nature and I would like to congratulate Dr. Sir Theodore Gregory for the part that he has played in it. I go so far as to say that if during his term of office as Economic Adviser he had done nothing else, the laying down of this coherent policy for the first time, would have justified his existence. I need only remind the House briefly of the five main points which comprise the policy laid down in that Report:

- (1) The policy of increasing supply both by trying to step up imports and by increasing home production.
- (2) The policy of making procurement a provincial matter based on an attempt to eliminate all competition and operating equally in all districts, whether those districts happen to be surplus or deficit.
- (3) Extension of rationing.
- (4) Better and more extensive price control was laid down as one of the aims

and (5) A central foodgrain reserve was to be set up.

In the opinion of this Group, the policy laid down in that Report is sound. Indeed we associate ourselves with what is said in the Report that the ideal would be, under the present circumstances, for Government to take over the whole business of the purchase, distribution and sale of grain and foodstuffs. We recognize that it is not an easy thing to do, we recognize that the difficulties of complete monopoly are particularly great in those provinces where there is no elaborate revenue system, but our view, nevertheless, is that the more closely Government can approximate to the ideal of cent per cent purchase and distribution the nearer they will be to solving the difficulties of this country in the matter of food. And it follows, therefore, that we are wholly opposed to those who say that this time has come to remove regional control and to revert to the normal channels of trade. It is our view that any such reversion would be disastrous. The Report of the Gregory Committee really had the last word to say on this subject when it said:

"Free trade under conditions of scarcity on the one hand and fear on the other would be an open invitation for hoarders to hoard and for every rich man and speculator to invest or hoard or to do whatever satisfies him as most likely to be in his own interest."

We believe with that Committee that the policy of free trade might work out its own salvation, but there would be in the meantime an era of starvation to large sections of people in this country. We associate ourselves entirely with the stand which has been taken by the Government of India in this matter and we congratulate them upon having at least evolved a sound and coherent food policy.

I have spoken about policy. I now turn to administration and here, I am afraid, I have no such bouquet to hand out to the Government of India or to the Provincial Governments. We may be satisfied with their policy, but we cannot pretend to be satisfied with the administration. It is very difficult to generalize on this topic, for naturally the standard of administration varies very much from one part of the country to another.

An Honourable Member: Not at all.

Mr. P. J. Griffiths: . . . and, I suppose, all of us speaking here are prepared to pay a tribute to the excellent administration carried out by the Government of Bombay of the food problem there. Unfortunately we cannot extend the same praise to all other parts of India. We, all of us, know of provinces where there has been chaos, confusion, timidity and resulting loss of public confidence, and we know of other provinces where excessive procremism has also been a contributory factor in making the food situation worse. It is difficult then to generalize, but I shall try to illustrate my statement that on the whole food administration has been poor, by referring to two or three of the main spheres in which it operates.

Let me take first the sphere of enforcement. I think I can say without fear of exaggeration that in many provinces the controls have become a joke. Not only are they not enforced, but the very machinery for enforcement does not exist. Let me take, for example that most excellent Order—the Food-grains Control Order—an order which if properly administered is the keystone of the whole of the procurement system. It is not an order which deals mainly with stopping people from doing a particular thing or prosecuting them when they do it, but it is an Order which was issued to enable Government to keep an eye on the stocks—to know where the stocks of grain are—and the intention was that the returns supplied by the dealers of grain would be examined by the department and would be made the basis of the organisation of procurement on the part of the agencies concerned. In practice, Sir, I know of at least two provinces in which those returns are merely filed in the office, examined by nobody, considered by nobody, not worth the paper on which they are written. And then again you turn to the Order in force in some provinces fixing a cordon round surplus districts. I quite understand that you cannot stop the occasional bullock-cart from sneaking across from the boundary of one district to another, but in the cases I have in mind it is not a question of an occasional bullock-cart, it is a question of thousands and thousands of maunds being moved from one district to another in complete defiance and disregard of that Order and with no action of any kind being taken by the authorities to try to bring the offenders to book. So I say that in the sphere of enforcement administration has been lamentably weak.

I now turn to the sphere of increased production. Here we must pay some tribute to what has been done. The Grow More Food campaign has achieved

I P M. something (*Several Honourable Members* “No, no”) I am sorry

I must disagree when you say, no, no. I was going to say that it could have achieved very much more but for the weakness of the administration. We know individual cases all over the country where attempts to Grow More Food have failed for lack of seed. Provinces and the Central Government have failed to make seed available at the right time and in the right place and in the right condition and this criticism applies with particular force to the Grow More Vegetable campaign. The National War Front at one time tried to run such a campaign. It had some success but from hundreds of places came the reports that the people had prepared themselves for growing more vegetables but had failed to get the seed. This has been one of the most serious administrative weaknesses in connection with the food situation. Far more serious has been the failure of the Governments themselves to set on foot the large scale cultivation of vegetables by their own agencies. The Army has done something. In fact it has done quite a lot in this respect in certain areas. But the Civil Governments are content to sit back and do nothing. Why should there not be a large scale movement to that end organized and led by every Government in this country?

Let me remind this House of what happened in the United Kingdom in the dark days of the middle of the last war. Britain was being brought near to the verge of starvation by the U-boat campaign. People did not sit down and say ‘what can we do’. Government and the people got together and organized the greatest allotment movement ever known in the whole of history. That

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movement through a dark and difficult period was the salvation of Britain. Why don't we do the same?

Dr. P. N. Banerjee (Calcutta Suburbs Non-Muhammadian Urban) The Government does not work with us. We do not know the Government.

Mr. P. J. Griffiths: Then why don't you and I—and even you Mr President, if presidential duties are compatible with gardening,—determine to take part in a movement like this? It is no use sitting back waiting for Government. Governments will always be supine and particularly in this country. We cannot blame Government for this silence if we are supine ourselves. Let us get busy today and see that such extra food as can be produced in this country is in fact produced. I could go on giving examples by the dozen. I could talk of the possibilities of breeding fish in East Bengal. I could remind this House that as far back as 1928 the Royal Commission on Agriculture pointed out that fish culture would be the quickest way of improving the food-supply of this country. If only we had carried out 50 per cent of its recommendations! (*An Honourable Member* "You want boats")—You do not want boats to catch fish from tanks! Then this country would have been in a better position than it is today. (*Interruptions*) Don't let us always be talking about what somebody else ought to do. Let us talk about what we can do.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Oh, oh! But who are you? You are not an Indian?

Mr. P. J. Griffiths: I claim to be as much interested in saving the lives of people in this country as Prof. Ranga. If not, I should be ashamed of talking in this Assembly.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Anyone should be ashamed to talk as you do, especially when he repeatedly claims to belong to a foreign country!

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) Order, order.

Mr. P. J. Griffiths: There is plenty of room for more energy in the growing of more food in this country.

Now to turn briefly to procurement. Wastage in certain provinces has become a scandal. The official figures of wastage are far below the wastage really assessed by those who have expert knowledge of the trade. I am not being unduly critical because I recognise that for officials, trained as I was trained myself in an entirely different line of life, it is difficult to take over something new of that kind. My complaint against the official world is not so much its failure to do what was required as its failure at a sufficiently early stage to bring in those people who had the expert knowledge. They have started doing it now but they have done it late in the day. So in the sphere of procurement and storage, weak administration has been largely responsible for our troubles.

Then, I come to the sphere of price control. I cannot stop to talk of price control with regard to grain except to say that we have not made much progress towards that ideal of a uniform statutory price control which was set forth in the report of the Food Grains Policy Committee. But I want to talk mainly in the few minutes remaining to me about price control with regard to the non-cereal foods. The facts are too well-known. Everyone knows that in Calcutta today you pay Rs 7 or Rs 8 for a seer of fish and everyone knows that fish is passing out of the diet of the ordinary middle class person in Bengal. The Bengali community have been eaters of fish for centuries past. It may be said that to the Bengali fish-eating is as natural as making public speeches. But to-day in Calcutta it is a faculty for the exercise of which, unlike that of public speaking, he is not now being given the opportunity. Fish at Rs 7 a seer, with no serious attempt made by Government to do anything about it, is in itself enough to condemn the food administration of this country.

Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta: Government is not aware of it!

Mr. P. J. Griffiths: The Food Member is listening carefully now. Perhaps he will be aware of it!

I realise that rationing is out of the question. Where rationing is out of the question, there the strictest possible price control is all the more important.

I have spoken about fish. I could equally well have spoken about potatoes. They are selling for Rs 2/8 a seer in Calcutta. The Government made an attempt to sell potatoes at ten annas a seer. Labourers, coolies and others lined up, bought the potatoes, then sold them to shop-keepers who in turn sold them at Rs 2/8 a seer. Government must know of this fact. It has taken no deterrent action to prevent that. Even in Bombay there has been a failure in this matter of price control. Again and again the European Association of Bombay has forced on the attention of Government steps which might be taken to deal with the situation which has now arisen. Always the reply has been the same—that the measures suggested are impracticable, that the Provincial Government in consultation with the Central Government has taken all possible steps. This is an old phrase. We have heard it so often. I can only say this. If they have taken all possible steps and if they have failed to achieve any result, then for heaven's sake let them try some impossible steps. It is not so long ago that we were told that rationing would be impossible in India. When the various Governments were forced into it, the impossibility melted away.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) The Honourable Member has only one minute more.

Mr. P. J. Griffiths: To summarise what I have been saying. While we are satisfied with policy, we are not satisfied with administration. The biggest task lying ahead of the Government of India is to do something about strengthening the food situation at the Centre and in the Provinces in every possible way. If that means getting in more people, then more people must be got in. If these people are not available elsewhere they must be got back from the Army. Indian and European officers should be brought in from the Army to strengthen the food administration wherever necessary. This must be regarded as of paramount importance and an integral part of the war effort.

Finally, one problem to which I do wish to draw attention is the problem of Calcutta. The decision last year to take Calcutta out of Bengal and to supply Calcutta from outside was the greatest step forward in solving the food difficulties. Its effect was not only material but psychological. In my view it is essential that the Central Government should continue its policy of making itself responsible for the food supplies of Calcutta.

I notice the Honourable the Food Member looking worried. Let me assure him that other people will look far more worried if he tries to discontinue that policy.

Food is not a question of laying down a policy. It is a question of seeing that that policy is carried out. If the Honourable the Food Member can do this, if he can build up a sound, effective food administration, he will help to tide over the difficult twelve months that he ahead and he will earn the gratitude, not only of this House, but of posterity.

Mr. Satya Narayan Sinha (Darbhanga cum Saran Non-Muhammadian) I would be failing in my duty if I do not acquaint this House with the situation with regard to food in the part of the country from which I come, I mean Bihar. Perhaps, Sir, you are aware that this part of the country was so rich and fertile that it was rightly characterised "The Garden of India". Today it is a God-forsaken land. It is not possible for me, at any rate adequately to describe the miseries and sufferings of the people who are living there. They simply beggar description. The District of Darbhanga, which is my home district, was and still is a surplus rice-producing district in Bihar. But what do you find there today? In the last two and a half years a very large population is living on rotten potatoes and roots, which have absolutely no nutritional value and which were formerly consumed by animals only. The result has been that people have lost all power of resistance and they are dying of malaria and cholera like flies. The medical experts are all unanimously of the opinion that the prevalence of epidemics is due to malnutrition and nothing else. You must have read in the papers that epidemics in

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North Bihar have played havoc and still are playing havoc there. The Governor of Bihar who visited the area recently was constrained to admit that the situation was disturbing. He has candidly admitted at a public conference that the deaths due to epidemics in North Bihar were two lakhs in the course of a few months and who were these people? The poor *kisans* and *masdoors*. There are hundreds of villages which have been depopulated, hundreds of families have been completely wiped out. The tale of woe will stagger any man who has got a human heart.

Sir, you are aware that in Bengal last year lakhs of people died of starvation and I am told that deaths are taking place still today in that unfortunate province for want of food. I am an officer in charge of the North Bihar Co-operative Relief Committee, which has recently been organised to give succour to the dying people and I tell you from my own personal experience that in that area we distribute medicines and the patients are cured but they would get a relapse if they do not get proper diet. It is not possible for any non-official organisation to provide food for such a large population. It is the duty of the State and State alone. I would like to tell you that this condition has been brought about, in my humble opinion, due to the large purchases of grains made by the Government for purposes of hoarding and exporting them to foreign countries. It is a common secret that in the Government godowns lakhs of mounds of grains have decomposed and have been thrown away, while people have died of starvation. In the last month I had been to Calcutta and at a railway station the terrible stench coming out of the decomposed grains, which were thrown away, one could not easily stand. They could not properly estimate their requirements with the result that the large purchases by Government increased the price of food stuffs so much so that it went beyond the average reach of the ordinary people.

The second thing is this control business. It is my definite opinion, however good and useful the control policy may be, in actual practice in this country I find that it has proved ruinous. Only two classes of people have been benefited by it, viz., the officials who are in charge of control and the agents who have the monopoly of the sale of those controlled goods. But have the real producers got anything? Nothing at all. As soon as any commodity is controlled, it has a knack of disappearing from the regular market and it can be obtained only from the black market at a rate which an ordinary man cannot afford.

About corruption in this Department the less said the better. It is a common talk in the streets that the new class of bribe-takers have beaten absolutely hollow the police of this country who are notorious for bribe-taking. Certain foods which are required first for patients and sick people find their way straight to the officials, as soon as they are received in the market and the civilian population suffer terribly for want of them.

The Assembly then adjourned for lunch till Half Past Two of the Clock.

The Assembly re-assembled after lunch at Half Past Two of the Clock. Mr Deputy President (Mr Akhul Chandra Datta) in the Chair.

Mr. Satya Narayan Sinha: Mr Deputy President, I was talking about this control business when the Assembly adjourned for lunch. Certain foods which are required first for the patients and the sick persons find their way straight to the officials as soon as they are received in the market, and the civilian population suffer terribly for want of them. I would give you, Sir, only one illustration take for instance Horlick's milk. You know that in certain diseases it is very badly required for the patients, but what happens in our part of the country? As soon as tins of Horlicks which have become very rare are received in the market, they find their way straight to the houses of officials who, I know, use them for daily consumption in the place of milk.

Sir, we are today faced with a situation which is unprecedented in the history of any civilised country. Can you imagine, Sir, this state of affairs

being tolerated in any country except in this unfortunate country of ours? No Government with the name can exist for a single day where people die in lakhs by starvation and diseases which can be easily remedied and cured. In this country, in the course of the last two years and a half, deaths due to starvation are many times greater than the total deaths of soldiers of the British Empire in this war. I ask if even Mr. Churchill, who is considered indispensable for his country, will be tolerated even for one day if even a thousandth part of the deaths which have taken place in this country take place in England. The old saying is more applicable to this House or rather to the Government of this country than anywhere else—when Rome was burning Nero was fiddling. While people are dying in lakhs, I find the people in charge of the life and health of this country are going on merrily. We know that our voice in this House is a voice in the wilderness. We quite realise our helplessness in this House and I find that the Member, opposite feel that they are fully entrenched. It is a fact. But, Mr. Deputy President, we believe in a destiny which rules above everything, and I am quite sure that sooner rather than later the day of reckoning is bound to overtake them and they will have to give account for the deaths of the dumb millions which have taken place due to mal-administration and to callousness on their part. With these words I resume my seat.

Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi (Dacca cum Momen-singh, Muhammadan Rural). Mr. Deputy President, my Honourable friend Mr. Griffiths, who visited the United Kingdom very recently told this House this morning that so far as that country was concerned the Government there had completed food arrangements before the declaration of the war in 1939. The Government in India did nothing of the kind till 1942. They did not even have statistics as to what quantity of food was available and whether there was sufficient food for the existing population; they never considered that that population might be increased considerably on account of the war. From the very first, I should say, the Government should have realised that owing to the advent of a new consuming class and the arrival of a large army from outside in various branches of the fighting forces India's economic difficulty would comprise not merely food grains but also such food articles as milk, fish, meat, poultry, vegetables, ghee, butter, etc.

Before proceeding to the point that I have just raised may I bring to the notice of this Honourable House a pamphlet in my possession as to what is the position in the United Kingdom since the declaration of war. The United Kingdom Government are not only looking to the proper quantity of food available for the Britishers but even to the proper quality. So far as quality is concerned we have done nothing. Quality is no consideration with us in this country. Rotten food is sold at prohibitive prices. I am talking particularly of Bengal. In the United Kingdom, apart from eggs, fruits and particularly oranges are being provided to every citizen. Government are providing vitaminised bread and marmalade; they are also including some special body-building substance in the bread-flour which is being issued to the bakeries and catering establishments. The result in that country is that the health of the average Britisher today is better than what it was even before the war. Undoubtedly, I admit that a good deal has been done by way of better distribution of food grains throughout India, and particularly planning of transport for this purpose. But the net result in the production and distribution of other food articles is still unsatisfactory. I am putting a question to my Honourable friend the Food Member. Let him say how can a Government official or an assistant, drawing a pay of say, Rs. 100—the vast bulk is under that pay—make his two ends meet under the present circumstances. Sir, in 1943, the then Food Member, the Honourable Sir Azizul Haque visualised the difficulty, as regards food products other than the food grains. During the food debate in this House he specially referred to the question of production of vegetables in Bengal, particularly potatoes and onions. He referred that question to the

[Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi]

Bengal Government and warned them that it was high time they should try and, as far as possible, grow more potatoes and onions. What was the reply? The Government of Bengal in the beginning of 1943 did not think of taking any steps at all. On the other hand, they informed the Government of India that there was plenty of potatoes and onions in Bengal and that there need be no apprehension about their availability. What is the position today? Potatoes cannot be had at less than Rs 1/4 per seer. What have they been doing? My friend Mr. Griffiths said that 'grow more food' campaign was a success to a certain extent. I say it is not only not a success but it has completely failed. The reason is this. The Provincial Governments have not taken that matter seriously. Apart from the seeds, what is the propaganda that the Provincial Governments are doing for the 'grow more food' campaign. So far as Bengal is concerned, the propaganda is a lecture or a speech at Pelti's or Firpo's, to grow more food. That is my experience of Bengal. Whenever the Honorable Member has gone or even the present Member for Education, Health and Lands has gone to speak on the 'grow more food' subject the meeting has taken place in a hotel. (An Honourable Member: "It is a call in the Hotel to 'Eat more food'") Another difficulty which we are experiencing in Bengal is that hundreds of thousands of Americans have gone there—fighting men. They do not regard price as any consideration. Their instruction to their agents is this—we want so much cabbage and so much cauliflower at whatever price you can secure. The result is that a cabbage or a cauliflower cannot be had at less than Rs 1/8 or Rs 2. (An Honourable Member: "Do Americans live on cabbage? Are they vegetarians?") Sir, what is the result. So far as food grains are concerned, the position is better but surely man cannot live only on food grains. During the last famine, for want of food grains, we could see people dying in hundreds and thousands in the streets but now for want of protein food deaths are taking place daily at homes of which we have no statistics. Corporation Health Officer in Calcutta, Dr Ahmad in the course of a statement to the Press has said that the devaluation of the people in general at present is playing havoc in Bengal. And that is due to want of protein food. (An Honourable Member: "Fish?"). Yes. Fish is selling at Rs 6 per seer. Here is a statement published in the issue of the *Statesman* of the 21st of April 1944. The rise in prices of articles of food in Bengal has shown an increase of over 250 per cent over the level of 1941. It was much cheaper in 1939. It was still cheaper in 1940 but the biggest rise has taken place in 1941. Even these figures are much lower than what we are now asked to pay in my province. I will give one or two instances. Here is what the *Statesman* says. Mutton which was priced in 1941 at 6 annas per seer cannot be had now for less than Rs 1/8. This figure is not correct, for it cannot be had for less than Rs 2. That is my information. Then poultry and chicken. (An Honourable Member: "This is all rich man's food. Come to the common man.") Yes. I am coming to that, after disposing of the chicken. Eight annas was the price in 1941. It is Rs 1/4 now. Fowl which was 8 annas is Rs 3 now. I will not say anything more about this.

I now come to the common people's food. Leave alone vegetables like cauliflowers. Take ordinary vegetables like brinjals, ginger, green chillies, ladies' finger and so on. The price has increased 400 times over the prices in 1941. Take beans. It was 5 annas in 1941. Today, it is 1/4 per seer. How can the poor man afford to buy and eat it at that price? These brinjals are ordinary food for the poor people and they could certainly grow more of them but they have not done it. The speeches that they make in the hatis or parties will not grow more food. The price of brinjals in 1941 was 2-annas a seer and before the war it used to be 2 pice per seer but it has gone up to 14 annas per seer. Then, take the case of *patwals*. Their price was 3 annas per seer in 1941 and it is now one rupee per seer. Now, what is the cumulative effect of the shortage of other foods? It is this that doctors have said that not only in Bengal but everywhere people have not got the strength to bear any disease and they will die in hundreds and thousands, of which you will have no

statistics because they will be shown as having died of some disease. But their deaths will really be due to want of protein food which unfortunately they cannot get.

My Honourable friend Mr. Griffiths has informed the House and I agree entirely with him and I would like also to give the same warning. Calcutta and the Greater Calcutta must be fed by the Centre.

Mr. N. M. Joshi (Nominated Non-Official) Why?

Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi: I will tell you why. If you leave it to the Bengal Government

Mr. N. M. Joshi: You have no confidence in it?

Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi: Nothing of the kind. If you leave it to the Bengal Government, the result will be that for feeding Calcutta and the Greater Calcutta they will have to purchase rice in the mofussil and it will be sold at a much higher price in Calcutta, and the Greater Calcutta is a suburb of Calcutta where the mills are situated. Therefore, my point is feed it from the Centre. You buy the surplus grains which are available in Bengal and stock it but do not allow the Province to interfere with the feeding of Calcutta and the Greater Calcutta. I give you this warning that the famine of the type we had in 1943 will come again. But the Government of India can surely buy any surplus food grains that may be available in Bengal.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta) Honourable Member has one minute more.

Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi: Very well, I will finish my speech in one minute. What was the population of Calcutta in 1939 before the war? The population of Calcutta then was 18 lakhs and today it is 36 lakhs. It has been doubled. The army and the men who have come to work in connection with the war effort and the increased number of mill hands have doubled the population. On the top of that there is the army which has come.

Sir, I have finished.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman (Patna and Chota Nagpur cum Orissa Muhammadan) Sir, I do not propose to discuss at length the points that have already been dealt with. I am certainly glad that my Honourable friend Mr. Griffiths has made the position definitely clear as it exists today, and if a man in his position can understand the gravity of the situation, you can imagine what experiences we have to relate here. But I have neither the time nor a desire to dilate on them at length. The only point which I want to bring home is that in the last debate which took place in November 1943 the Honourable the Food Minister gave us an assurance that under the revised basic plan they will secure as clear an account as possible of the surpluses and deficits and will move the surplus to the deficit areas without much delay. He did not make any categorical statement of the efforts that were made by his Department to implement the assurance that he gave to the House. Mr. Griffiths has, of course, pointed out that the different provinces were asked to file their lists of production, but there was none to verify them or to find out whether the statements that were filed were even worth the paper on which they were written.

Sir, I want to make out the point that although we have been having the discussion of the food situation for over two years now in this House and at different stages the Government Members had been giving us assurances yet they have not been able to either convince their own selves or this House that they have acted in the manner in which they proposed to act or they acted in the spirit in which they gave the assurances. Mr. Griffiths has pointed out that in England where conditions are more difficult to manage and where the food position should have been far worse than in a country like India which had been self-sufficient from the point of view of the food supply, things have not been at all very bad. On the other hand, we notice that the conditions in United Kingdom are definitely better. The other day Sir Muhammad Azizul Huque in reply to a question of Mr. Manu Subedar said that in America the index prices have increased by only 26 per cent whereas in India the index

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price today is at the level of 182 per cent as compared to index of prices in 1939. And this is calculated on the basis of the control rates of commodities that the Civil Supplies Department and the Food Department have published. We all know that probably 90 per cent of the commodities of civil supplies have had to be purchased in the black markets in spite of all the paraphernalia of staff the Civil Supply Department has got for the so called "Control". The same is the story so far as non-cereal commodities are concerned. There also the black marketeers were encouraged and they have thrived at the connivance of the Government, whether it was the Provincial Government or the Central Government or whether it was the case of a few individuals who were in charge at different places, or whether it was the Sub-Divisional Officer or the District Magistrate or some other officer of a higher status and position, the fact remains that there has not been any appreciable improvement anywhere in the matter of lowering the prices. It may be argued by some people that if a control was not introduced and if the Food Department had not come into existence, things would have been still worse. For arguments sake I may concede that point. But we have got to see what you have been able to do after making such an elaborate arrangement and after having such a big paraphernalia of the two Departments and the control orders issued by the Central Government in Consultation or in Co-operation with all the Provincial Governments. The three essential points are procurement, distribution and—an important or important point—wastage. About procurement it was suggested by Sir Cowasjee Tehlani in November 1913 that it should be made at the base that is directly through the agriculturists and at prices which could reasonably be fixed in consultation with the agriculture interests. This was not done. The Provincial Governments were authorised to procure these food grains in any manner they thought fit. There have been definite allegations that they were making profits at the cost of the consumer and of the peasants and there was agitation in the press about it for a long time. This matter was brought to the notice of the Government of India by definite expressions of opinions but Government attitude was that no notice of these would be taken.

The other point is about wastage,—I shall speak about distribution later. As regards wastage, it was brought out only the other day through questions that thousands of tons of wheat flour which were stored in Calcutta and other places had to be burnt or sold for manure purposes. The most pertinent point is that whatever was sold in Calcutta ration shops was in many cases not at all fit for human consumption. And it was not consumed by the public but thrown away. No statistics of that was kept or prepared by Government, although on many occasions letters were sent to the different departments, allegations were made in the press that the quality of rice and flour and pulses was extremely bad. No heed was paid to all that. In a ration shop you were forced to take what was placed for your use, whether it was fit for consumption or not was no concern of that shop or of this Government. The poor man who paid for it had to throw it away or take it at the risk of his life.

My friend Mr Satva Narayan Sinha has correctly dealt with the situation in Bihar, how malaria, cholera and other diseases prevail as the immediate after-effects of malnutrition, supply of deteriorated and rotten stuff. This is creating far more havoc than the condition of famine would create. There are medical opinions that the quality of the food has deteriorated and it is deficient in the necessary vitamins and proteins on account of the high rates existing for non-cereal commodities like vegetables, etc.

I will now deal with the question of distribution. The cities and towns have got rationing arrangements now and I have experience of two cities, Calcutta and Patna. In Calcutta the quality of food that we get is definitely far inferior to what we get in Patna or Delhi. So Patna is in that respect better off under Rai Bahadur Mazumdar, the Controller, but the point is what price we have to pay in these ration shops. The Chancellor of the Exchequer in London said on the 26th June 1943 that prices in England were only about

15 per cent. over the pre-war prices of 1939. The index price in America is today only 26 per cent. over the 1939 figure but in India it is 182 per cent. higher in spite of controls. The price of food grains has gone up by about 300 to 400 per cent. Hapur wheat used to sell for Rs 3/4 a maund, and now it sells at Rs. 11. At Patna good quality rice used to be sold at Rs 4 per maund and now it is Rs 12 at khaton Shops. The Food Member felt happy in saying that there has been a reduction in the price by a few annas and he wanted to take credit for that. But does he know that even now the consumer is paying 400 per cent. over the 1939 prices? Of course you cannot reduce the price of foodstuffs alone because that will make the condition of the agriculturist very much hopeless and perilous. You must bring down the prices of all other things like medicines, coal, cloth and, etc., and the other essentials of life like kerosene oil, etc. The index price should be brought down to the 1939 level which Government can do if they wanted to do. But there is no honesty of purpose and no sincerity of desire to do so. The whole purpose of control or fixing a ceiling price should be to bring back pre-war conditions, not only in one commodity but in all commodities simultaneously which this country can produce or procure. Of course it may be said that you cannot control articles that are imported and which you are compelled to purchase at the price demanded by foreign markets. That is not the issue here. The point is that you have controlled all the commodities that this country is able to produce. At what prices have you done so and at what prices are you maintaining them? You are not importing wheat except to a very limited extent. You are not importing sugar, you are not importing cloth. Most of them are Indian produce and Indian manufacture and Indian made and you can very well control them.

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: Does my Honourable friend suggest that we are not importing wheat?

Mr. Muhammad Nauaaz: I said you are importing a very limited quantity of wheat. I want to make it clear that in the case of these commodities the Government have fixed the ceiling price and they are not trying to bring down prices to the normal level by and by. Within these two years have you been able to do something more in the direction of bringing down the prices? Not at all, otherwise they would not have been what they are today. The Honourable Food Member may say that at one time rice was not being available even at Rs 30 per maund in Calcutta. That is not good enough. It was chaos, it was famine then. It was not a condition expected of any civilised Government. What I want to impress is this. That was an unnatural condition and no reliance can be placed on those conditions or on prices then raging for a few days or few months.

The question of cereals and non-cereals has already been discussed. I would say that not only food grains, but also vegetables and allied articles of food are being sold at exorbitant rates. In Calcutta, mutton is selling at Rs 3-8-0 a seer. Fish which at one time used to sell at six to eight annas a seer went up to Rs 10 a seer on a particular day. In Patna, meat which used to sell at four to six annas per seer is now about Rs 1-8-0. There is no control of any kind and all these commodities are being consumed by the military department, I mean the personnel who are engaged with the military in India. With the inflated currency, the military people are able to purchase at any price, outbidding common people. Under such circumstances, what is the duty of any Government? It is no use issuing ration cards for wheat, rice and sugar only and for nothing else on this earth. That is the ration in Delhi, in Patna and everywhere. Is a man expected to live only on these two or three commodities? They may be essentials of the highest importance, but is it not necessary that if you want to have control and distribution on a wider scale, you should include all the commodities that are necessities of life in the ration list. A word about 'grow more food' campaign.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr Akhil Chandra Datta): The Honourable Member has one minute more.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: This question of 'grow more food' has received only lip sympathy. The Government made no arrangement to give financial aid to agriculturists for the procurement of seeds, manures and other things necessary for the 'grow more food' campaign. With these words, I resume my seat.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall (Member for Railways and War Transport) Do I understand the Honourable Member to say that the price of food grains should be brought down to pre-war level?

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: Provided the prices of all other things are also brought down to the same level.

Mrs. Renuka Ray (Nominated Non-Official) With your permission, I should like to place before this House first of all my actual experience of the conditions I found during my tour of the interior districts of Bengal in September last. I think we are all aware that there is a general deterioration of the food situation in the whole country, and although it is no doubt far more acute in the areas that I visited we must not forget that Assam, Orissa, Malabar, parts of U P, and parts of Bihar are almost in the same condition as Bengal. We are apt to come to conclusions and make hasty generalisations about conditions in our country from what the conditions are in cities, or at the most our vision may extend to urban areas. But at the risk of repeating a true but true fact, I should like to say that we forget that India is a land of villages and the village is the backbone of our economy. Sir, the plight and the condition of the cities or whatever complaints the city dwellers may have in regard to food situation can give no indication of the plight of the villages of India. Enforcement of the Vagrancy Act in Calcutta has made it still more difficult for city dwellers to understand what is happening outside and they will no doubt be protected now from any very harrowing sights of the type they saw last year. The Honourable Food Member told us, and it is no doubt true that there has been daily effective price control in regard to food grains, that rice is selling at Rs 13 to Rs 15 a maund. How has it benefited the village population in this country? In the areas and the places that I have visited particularly in villages, I found men, women and children utterly destitute, and these, I may remind the House, are not proverbial beggars about whom we have wonderful complacency. These are village folk who two years back had a definite place in the village structure, who had homestead in the villages, but today they are homeless and wandering. Sir, we see women and children devitalised, emaciated beyond control, wandering in the village homeless, living on rice water, begging from door to door, sleeping under the open sky in rain and storm. As regards the men folk some of them died in the last famine, others were ailing. We heard the most pitiable tales from these women. Many of them have had to sell themselves, or their daughters, so that the family should survive. This is not only true of the villages, but perhaps it is even more true of the urban areas, and this is a problem which has become more and more acute. The shame that covers them is a shame that covers every Indian woman today and the indictment against those who are responsible in the way that they tolerate such things, whether they be the authorities or the richer classes in the country, is a very heavy one indeed. Death by starvation is no doubt on the decline, but death from malnutrition, death from effects of undernourishment and disease has taken a very heavy toll in the districts. It may be said that when there is bumper crop, bumper harvest in Bengal, why is it not possible for the agriculturist to come to the aid of those who are destitute by giving them employment and thus saving the rural village economy? Sir, the answer lies in the fact that it is only the price of certain foodgrains that has been controlled and prices of other food-stuffs are soaring high. I won't go into details because previous speakers have told you the conditions. Prices in cities, let me tell you, are far worse than in villages, when incomes are compared. You must also remember

that there are very large numbers of these agriculturists who are very small cultivators. The yield of their cultivable land is not very much and leaves very little surplus over their own requirements for sale, and it is not possible for them to meet their own necessities. How can they meet the necessities of others? I think the number of small holdings is 40 per cent and neither these small cultivators nor the landless labour can be benefited very much by the control of foodgrains in this country. Turning to other articles of food, we find that salt is selling in some places at Rs 1/8 to Rs. 2 per seer. We know that there is fish famine and milk famine. The condition is even worse in the villages, especially of artisans and of fishermen. Those who know Chandpur in the days of old and how the fishermen flourished there, can tell from a superficial survey of that part of the country that things are very different now. Last year I saw no boats in the rivers of Bengal. This year there were some here and there, but the beautiful scenes of hundreds and hundreds of sailing boats on the rivers of East Bengal are still absent. We hear so much that boats are being constructed, but no one knows how long it will be before we have enough of them and, in the meantime, these people starve and consumers are faced with fish famine.

Sir, we hear a great deal about rehabilitation and we realize its urgency. Let me tell you on behalf of those voluntary organisations and individuals who actually do the rehabilitation work how great the difficulties are. I do not say that it is true only of voluntary organisations, but I have seen officials—responsible officials—both in districts and in subdivisions who have initiated work and are trying hard to ease the situation and it is not possible for them to do anything until the root causes are tackled and tackled effectively. I will give you an example of one village where we have been trying to work. It is the village of those who make cane products, such as baskets. When things are ready it is very difficult to transport them even to the next village. Marketing is very difficult and transport difficulties in the interior are acute. It is not enough to do rehabilitation work on these lines, although I do not want for one moment to say that those who are undertaking it are not doing something very useful. India, Sir, is a land of vast natural resources, a land which Nature intended as a land of plenty, but for more than a century it has become a land where food has gradually deteriorated and people are starving. I will quote an authority on this subject. A former Director of Public Health in Bengal said:

"That the people of this province are on a diet that even rats cannot survive for more than a few weeks. Eighty millions of the people of India are perpetually hungry."

And this was said in the days which we considered normal times and today in spite of the best efforts that may have been put in by the Government I claim that conditions are very much worse.

Sir, if we turn to the food policies of other countries like the United States and Britain, we find that they have been based on nutritional considerations and a well planned programme of food production and distribution, after an estimation of requirements has been followed. Price control over all commodities since the war began has been effective. Mr Griffiths spoke this morning and said that these things were more effective in England because public conscience was aroused. Well, that certainly is true, but you have also to consider that that is a country where there is 98 per cent of literacy. In India the standard of literacy is 8 per cent. How can you expect public conscience of villagers of this country to go up to the level of the United Kingdom? Quite apart from public conscience, let me tell you that even there people alone could not have done anything. The success that they have achieved is due to the fact that Government is giving generous subsidies. We find that huge and generous food subsidies are paid. In so small a country a subsidy of 102 million pounds was paid in 1942 to the growers of food and that naturally makes the Grow More Food campaign a real and a living thing. It is also perhaps the most effective way by which prices can be lowered for the consumer without hurting the cultivator. If

[Mrs Renuka Ray]

prevents anti-social hoarding, distributes the burden and makes it possible for food to reach all

Then, Sir, 70 million pounds is paid in Britain for giving free and cheap milk to children. This brings me to the most important problem in this country—milk famine. I would draw the attention both of the authorities and of the public to this, for if the present situation continues—it is becoming more and more acute in villages, in towns, in cities, everywhere—decay and deterioration of our race is certain. It is for this reason that the All-India Women's Conference has placed this as a major item of work for the year. First of all, I think, we must have the slaughter of cattle entirely banned. Cattle farming and care of cattle should be encouraged by giving generous subsidies to farmers. Milk subsidies should be encouraged and the most important point is that there should be strict rationing of all milk available today. Milk should be made available for children, for nursing mothers and for invalids. Luxury products—food for the rich—should be entirely banned until such time as there is enough food for the babies of India. Distribution should be properly adjusted. There should be a sufficient number of cheap and free milk canteens for children. I would appeal to every Member in this House not to rest content until we are satisfied that we have been able to obtain enough milk so that our children can survive, so that they can be able-bodied, so that they can be healthy specimens and pride of free India.

I would like very much to agree with the Honourable the Food Member when he says that public confidence has been restored. It may be true that panic to a large extent has been alleviated, but if the Government has to restore public confidence they must convince the people that they are working in the interest of the people, and they should get their co-operation, and then alone public confidence will be restored and then we can expect normal times to come back.

Mr. K. S. Gupta (Ganjam cum Vizagapatam Non-Muhammadan Rural)

It is my lot to speak of two provinces. One is Orissa and the other is Andhra because my constituency spreads over the two provinces of old Ganjam and the present Vizagapatam. In my last speech, i.e., on the food debate in November 1943 I expressed the woes of Orissa, how people were suffering from want of food, yet the Orissa Government was exporting rice in large quantities. Perhaps that speech of mine brought down the Orissa Premier from Orissa to Delhi and took Lord Wavell from Delhi to Orissa, that is Cuttack. They have seen with their own eyes the conditions prevailing in Orissa. Something was done but Orissa is still in the grip of a famine and the export of rice is still continuing. It is not a happy sign.

Coming to my district, here is a telegram from a far off place like Sompeta. Perhaps this is a copy of the telegram sent to the Honourable the Food Member.

Two copper-plate taluqa people starving for ration more Sinderi Ram Swami, Sompeta.

This shows how appalling are the conditions of the rural areas. How on earth can an adult get on with 1/8 measure? A measure is something like 40 tolas in my district and 1/8 means 5 tolas per head per day. If rationing is on this model let it not be prevailing in India. It may be child's play in England but it is the demon's play in India. If this is the kind of rationing that must be in the rural parts of my constituency, away with it.

The other day one of our friends on the other side asked me, How are the people getting on in your part of the country? I told him we are living on *qajarayaboga*. It has a very big and rough gram. It was given to elephants before the war and is now used by civilians, by gentlemen of your and my stamp. This has been the root of the trouble of cholera spreading like wild fire in Vizagapatam, that famous place which was first visited by the Japs in the

6th April 1942 where the military is very strong. Cholera spread to the military—thank God! At once there was a flutter in the medical world, in the police world, in the military world. There was a great conference of all the medical men in the district. They found out that the supply of this abominable rice was responsible for the spread of cholera. It was stopped and the cholera stopped in a week. Gajapata was sent to the forests!

In the papers we hear of hundreds of villages being depopulated. There is a place called Kottarevu in the coastal belt of Ganjam. It had a population of 2,000 before the war. Now it is near about 1,000. What has become of the other one thousand in four years? They have died of cholera, then malaria and afterwards from a peculiar disease which, in the beginning, is only a skin disease. It then develops into a sore. It spreads throughout the body until the whole of it becomes soft and the man dies within 24 hours of that. Here, Sir, I have got photos to show how appalling are the conditions of the people who are dying in thousands after suffering terribly.

(Exhibits photos to Assembly)

There are rural dispensaries but they are apologies of dispensaries. They have neither medicines nor doctors. One doctor was telling me that it is impossible to find out what this disease is. He, however, felt that it was due to mal-nutrition that this disease was spreading. This remark was sent to the Health Inspector of the village and through him to the Tehsildar. He did not know what to do so he forwarded it to the District Magistrate. The next morning comes the Fatwa: "No such complaints hereafter. I cannot tolerate them. If there is malaria, there is the rural dispensary. If there is medicine they will get it, or else die." That is the attitude taken by the officials and the truth is not allowed to be given out. The members on the opposite may say 'there are no complaints'. How can you have complaints? If I write a letter from Vizagapatam, even about cholera, it is censored and I am sent to jail for it. And suppose the letter reaches, he cannot make a complaint to anybody else. Even officers are not permitted to make complaints. Such is the maladministration which is rooted deep in the rural administration of yours. You may be proud of it; you may be complacent about it. You may feel very happy for the coming era of plenty. Sir, you are disappointed. You will be deceived. Self-deception is the worst offence that one can commit. Please do not be a victim to it.

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: Hear, hear. Self-deception.

Mr. K. S. Gupta: There are certain villages which are deserted. Here is a photo of a deserted village—not of Goldsmith.

(Exhibits a photo to Assembly)

These are the conditions. I will now tell you something of the urban areas. I come from a place which is so called urban. There we were getting half a seer of rice as ration. That is 40 tolas in weight. Sometime God knows why, it was reduced to half of 40, i.e. 20 tolas per day per head and 10 tolas for a child under 12.

Sir, we have got instead of one or two Tahsildars—several—1 the Distribution Tahsildar, 2 the Reception Tahsildar, 3 the Construction Tahsildar, 4 the Ration Tahsildar, 5 the Destruction Tahsildar, and so many other Tahsildars, yet the people are allowed to suffer. There is a village called Gajapatinagara, 14 miles away from Vizianagram. People come from that village to Vizianagram once a week to take their ration cards for 1/4 seer, i.e., 20 tolas of rice per day per week. They were sleeping on the road one night. It so happened that I had to pass through that road. I woke up some people there and asked them what they meant by sleeping on the roadside. They said "What are we to do? The Tahsildar who is in charge of rationing has got to do other business as well and he is absent. We have to wait till the morning". All of them were foodless—For 24 hours—They were sleeping on the hard metalled road without food. They have to go 14 miles up and down to take their ration cards. That is the condition in the rural areas.

[Mr K. S. Gupta]

Here is another telegram from the producers. The consumers as well as the producers are suffering in the same manner. Perhaps the Food Member has also received a copy of this telegram. The telegram says

"Andhra Kisans plead higher purchasing power through higher prices for agricultural goods to meet heavy cost of agriculture. Pay two maunds paddy minimum, Rs 12 at kisan's home. Oppose asking lower prices food grains proletarian professionals may be given more wages but should not agitate lowering food prices. Letter follows. Subbiah, Secretary, Andhra Ryots' Association and Paddy Growers Council, Andhra"

What becomes of the producer and the consumer? They are not taken into consideration. But who looms large between the two? It is the middleman. The Government has created a third class and that is the middleman's. Who is he? He acts as a buffer—between the Government and the producer. He always puts his trust in the Government and the Government trusts the middleman but not the producer. The producer has to part with certain stocks at a price less than what it costs him to produce. In these days when you cry hoarse with regard to the Grow More Food campaign, which is mere bunkum or humbug to expect the peasant to grow more food when he is not given the necessary materials? Not an acre has been added to the paddy-growing area. In Vizagapatam and Vizianagaram we were having beautiful rice, because we are midway between Behampur and Jaipur. Excellent rice was available in the markets of Vizagapatam but all that is gone. But where has it gone, underground or overground, I am sure not on the ground. That was the question which one of the members on the other side put. I ask the same question. He gives no answer. If he does not know let him quit his post and someone who is better informed and who is in the know of things will take his place. What happened is this. All the goods are purchased by the military contractors and stored. Only rotten stuffs unfit for human consumption is released for civilian consumption. Do you call it humanity or chivalry? Whatever you call it, it is abominable negligence, it is atrocious and outrageous negligence on the part of the Government which permit only things unfit for human consumption to be released for civilian consumption. I read in the *Statesman* the other day that 40,000 tons of spoilt wheat was sold to a military contractor, who got it cleaned and again resold it to the Government for civilian consumption at a profit of Rs 48,000. Is it not atrocious? Is it not abominable that what is unfit for human consumption should be sold to the civilian population at a price which is Rs 48,000 higher? Similarly, I heard (of course it is a very reliable information) that 80,000 tons of dehydrated potatoes were sold in the market which was absolutely unfit for human consumption. Who asked the Government to dehydrate so much quantity which was not required by them and then when it got rotten and unfit for human consumption to release it to the civilian population? The other day at Vizagapatam I saw two tins of ghee reserved and preserved for the military being sold in the market. They contained worms 2 to 3 inches. If it had been sent in Burma where they make a feast of these worms I would have understood it. But please do not sell this dirty ghee in Vizagapatam for civilian consumption when it is unfit for human consumption.

Please note that in India there is a lot of disaffection on account of your maladministration. What is the remedy? You say you have planned. When do you start? When are you going to give effect to your plans? Your plans are wrong from the beginning and when they are administered the result is maladministration, and every thing *malafide* and not *bona fide* with the Government. Sir, Mahatma Gandhi in his letters to the Viceroy has suggested a splendid remedy. The real workers are not the Government and their underlings, but those leaders and workers, the Congressmen, who are in jail. Release them. They will come to your rescue, to the rescue of the people who are suffering. They will do all the necessary work. If you don't, it means that you do not want the people who are suffering to have their

sufferings alleviated and that you do not like that real workers should be out. But remember that does not go well with you any longer.

I will speak about Black market under the white administration. Palasa is a village, which is of course a railway station. There the black market is open and notorious. Officers of the Government know it, they connive at it and they encourage it. These are the conditions that are prevailing in the rural parts. My friend Mr. Sinha said that Bihar is God forsaken. I may tell you that my part of the country is not only God forsaken but, man forgotten.

Mr. K. C. Neogy (Dacca Division, Non-Muhammadan Rural). Sir, my principal complaint about the speech which the Honourable Member in charge made last week is that it lacked a realistic background. When the Honourable Member made his speech, it seemed to me that it was intended perhaps to be sent to the India Office to serve as a basis for one of those self-righteous speeches of Mr Amery in which he assures the world that all is well with India. When I read the few lines which the Honourable Member chose to devote to the position of Bengal, I wondered within myself as to whether the Honourable Member forgot the poignancy of the situation with which we are still faced in that hapless province. I am not going to refer to the tragedy that happened last year when, according to our calculation, 30 lakhs of people lost their lives out of sheer hunger. I know how that figure was sought to be minimised by the official statistical cooking agents, but I should on the present occasion begin by quoting the Governor of Bengal as my authority. The Governor of Bengal in a broadcast which he made about six weeks ago gave the number of persons who were on the dole at that time in one shape or another, as two and three-quarter lakhs. 2½ lakhs of people were on the dole in one shape or another about six weeks ago in Bengal. The Governor took care to add that he did not of course say that many more were not having a hard time of it, but that "the extent of distress approaching destitution is not sufficient to cause serious concern." When the Governor gives this figure, we, from our own experience of the policy of Government,—as also experience of the exact practice that obtains in these matters—know that if 2½ lakhs of people were on the dole, according to the admission of the Governor, a very much larger number were actually on the verge of starvation and destitution, who were not receiving the attention that they deserved at the hands of the Government. The Governor was good enough then to refer to the epidemic situation because he himself admitted that when considering the distress we should also consider the state of public health, and he said that malaria had unfortunately reappeared in an epidemic form in some parts of the province. This statement of Mr Casey was challenged by no less an authority than Dr B C Roy in a very long statement which I have before me now, in which he pointed out that it was wholly inaccurate to say that malaria had reappeared in Bengal, that if anything it was prevailing all the time and it had only reappeared in a much aggravated form. Furthermore, he made out that the number of people afflicted was almost unbelievably high, he gave certain figures and proportions, from which he came to the conclusion that the situation was indeed very grave. He further pointed out that it was wholly inaccurate to say that malaria had appeared in an epidemic form in some parts of Bengal, and asserted that with the exception of the Himalayan tracts in the north, the entire province of Bengal was in the deadly grip of the malaria epidemic. Dr Roy further pointed out the difficulties in the procurement of medicines. He is at the head of a charitable organisation that is doing splendid work in Bengal, and he cited several instances to show that quinine was either non-obtainable or obtainable only with great difficulty. Only a few days ago, at a meeting of the upper House in Bengal, even the Leader of the European group complained that according to his information, Government's instructions in regard to the distribution of quinine and other anti-malarial drugs were not being properly carried out. I have another official statement before me to indicate that in the first five months of this year as many as 24,59,000 odd patients suffering from malaria had resorted to hospitals.

[Mr. K. C. Neogy]

and charitable dispensaries of which statistics are maintained by Government. If about 25 lakhs of people actually resorted to public hospitals and dispensaries, how many more people were silently suffering and perhaps dying without any treatment? When this matter came up for discussion a few days ago in the upper House in Bengal, the Public Health Minister said that everything humanly possible was being done, but he added that so long as people could not be supplied with nutritious food, he did not think that it would be possible to solve the problem of malaria successfully.

If I were now to refer to the testimony of a military officer, Major General Stuart, who in a statement issued in January dealt with this situation, the House would observe how the situation has continued from bad to worse, from January onwards. Referring to his own experience in January—or rather the previous few weeks,—he made out that the mortality from malaria was very high, he also referred to the prevalence of small-pox, he complained that quinine was not available and whatever was available was not of the right kind. Then he said that in almost all the households he himself had visited more than one person had died of malaria and some more were down with it.

A few weeks ago there was a conference of medical men in Calcutta in which they came to the view that at least 40 per cent of the people of Bengal must be suffering from malaria and that the supply of medicines was inadequate. Leaving aside the countryside, what about Calcutta, which manages to get some amount of attention at least, at the hands of Government? There are two wards in the city municipality of Calcutta which are at the present moment in the grip of malaria, and it has been estimated that about 70 to 75 per cent of the population living in these two wards are afflicted with malaria, and the testimony of the city municipal health officer has already been quoted by my Honourable friend, Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi in which he has stated, referring to the prevalence of malaria in Calcutta, that one of the factors responsible is the devaluation of the people in general.

I should like to refer now to another set of statistics. Honourable Members read every morning in their newspaper the number of sick destitute persons who are either admitted to the hospitals in Calcutta or have died in hospitals. I took the trouble of adding up the number for the month of October day by day, and this is what I find in the month of October 1968 sick destitutes were admitted to the hospitals in Calcutta, and 293 of such destitutes died in hospitals in that month. Sir, these figures relating to sick destitutes show that a large number of destitutes who are to be found in the city of Calcutta are dying every month and every day in the hospitals. From our experience we know that hospitals in Calcutta are not too generous in their treatment of the sick destitutes—I have my own personal knowledge in the matter. The House will therefore be in a position to realise from these two figures the extent of distress that prevails. Let the House not be under a misapprehension that these statistics relate to what are called the professional beggar class. They are people who come from all over the country in search of food in Calcutta, lured by the wealth of the city and the fact that it abounds in charitable organisations and charitably minded citizens. And some of them who fall sick and very seriously sick get admitted to the hospitals and they die in these numbers even today.

From all these figures and statements to which I have made reference, the House will know that there is no room for complacency. The situation in Bengal is very, very grave indeed. I am free to admit that more food grains have moved into Bengal. There has been a bumper crop of late and the prospects of the next crop are not altogether bad but, in spite of all this, we have to meet a situation which never arose in the history of British India. The tragedy of last year has left an aftermath which has not to be grappled with, with courage and fortitude on behalf of Government, and with the full co-operation of the people.

4 P.M.

This leads me to the point which my Honourable friend in charge relegated to the end of his speech by way of a peroration. The Honourable Member perhaps thought that his title to be called a Food Member might be challenged in this House (*An Honourable Member* "Not at all. He is so fat".) So far his responsibilities have not extended beyond food grains. He may truly be described as the Member for food grains. In order that he might justify his official title he referred to a Food Committee of the Executive Council which, I understand, are considering various matters at a very high level. He said that the principal object of the Committee was the co-ordination of policy at a high level. I am afraid that the height of the level may be so great as not to enable the Honourable Members to realise the miseries of the lowly. I am not going to repeat what has been said already by previous speakers regarding protective food, regarding balanced food and better food. I make bold to assert that if the food of the people of Bengal was not balanced last year, it is less balanced this year. If the people of Bengal did not have a sufficiency of protective food last year, the survivors of the famine have much less of protective food this year, and if the people of Bengal did not have food of the proper quality last year, they are having a much worse quality of food this year.

I might make a passing reference to the fact that, apart from the deterioration in the quality of the rice and the wheat stuffs that are supplied to us, we are accustomed nowadays to have a fair proportion of stone chips mixed with the rice that we take, and I am waiting for my Honourable friend to explain the vitamin value of pebbles.

My Honourable friend in his speech referred to the fact that wastage is a normal incident of storage, and that even before Government interfered with distribution and procurement, normally, taking the pre-war figures, there was a wastage of about a million tons every year in the foodstuffs. I am prepared to admit the accuracy of the statement. I am very glad that my Honourable friend Mr. Griffiths said that figures given by Government as regards wastage have got to be taken with a grain of salt, and that the actual wastage perhaps is much more considerable than what appears from Government statements. But apart from that, in the past, before Government came to interfere with procurement and supply, the people were at liberty to pick and choose. It was not possible for the private trader to palm off bad quality of food. It was always possible for the consumer to have his say in the selection of the foodstuffs. Now, what is the present position? Due to Government control, and due particularly to rationing in those places where rationing has been introduced, bad food and unwholesome food is being rammed down our throats with the help of the Defence of India Rules. The question arose in several cases in Bengal as to whether the municipalities had their usual authority to inspect samples of food which were issued to the consumers in the Government controlled shops. There were several instances in which there was a tussle between the municipal authorities and the authorities of the Civil Supply Department, and in one instance I understand that the Advocate General of Bengal gave the opinion that if any action is authorised by the Food Control Act and such action is inconsistent with the Municipal Act, then the latter Act must give way. That is why I was saying that unwholesome food, bad food, is being rammed down our throats with the help of the Defence of India Rules. That was certainly not the position in the pre-war days to which my Honourable friend made reference.

Then again, we find how different departments of Government are at variance with each other over this point. The Mayor of Calcutta stated recently that although Mr. Holland, the Secretary of the Public Health and Local Self Government Department of Bengal, had told the Mayor that he had recommended that the Health Department of the Corporation should be allowed to take samples of foodstuffs from the ration shops, the view of the

[Mr K O Neogy]

Rationing Department was that the Health Department of the Corporation could not be allowed to take such samples. The dispute is yet pending and the Corporation has not succeeded in asserting its authority in the matter in the interests of the consumers of the city of Calcutta.

A casual reference was made by my Honourable friend Mr Gupta to the policy of censorship that is exercised over the publication of matters referring to the food situation. I have my personal testimony to give to this House. On one occasion, on return from a tour, I wanted a statement to be published on my own authority and the newspaper concerned definitely declined to publish the statement. That is the policy of Government. I would not call it censorship, but various instructions have been issued to the Press to be careful about allowing publicity being given to statements regarding the food situation, particularly the food procurement and food distribution system of Government. (*An Honourable Member* "Is it a fact?") Yes. It is a fact. Unfortunately I have not got the instructions before me at the moment. I did possess a set of instructions which were issued to the Press in this connection. I have not got those papers with me at the present moment. I speak from recollection. In one of those sets of instructions, the Press Adviser advised the newspaper editors to be careful about publishing statements which may have been passed through the news agencies. That is to say, they did not want any prominence to be given to items of news which may have been even formally passed by Press Censors. Therefore it seems to me

Mr. Deputy President (Mr Akhil Chandra Datta) Honourable Member's time is up.

Mr. K. O. Neogy: I would like to wind up my remarks by saying that the Government must make up its mind to act firmly and solve the enormous difficulties that lie in the way of a complete success of their policy. If they hesitate to do so, then perhaps, behind the Imperial shield millions of people will have to repose in the serenity of a grave-yard whose boundaries may coincide with the boundaries of the province of Bengal.

Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali (Lucknow and Fyzabad Divisions, Muhammadan Rural). Sir, I listened with great attention to the speech of my Honourable friend Mr Griffiths today. He was criticising every act not only of the Administration but also of the organisation of this Food Department and the Food Association. I agree with him so far as he had been attacking the Government and the Government policy. But when he launched in the realm of attacking the public of India, I differed from him entirely. He said that the public ought to co-operate in these food measures adopted by the Government of India and the Provincial Governments. My own assertion is that there are very few organisations in the provinces and I assert it on the floor of this House that the public of the provinces is not being taken into confidence at all. I stand here as a Member of this Assembly and I represent 12 districts of my province and I say it here that they have not approached a single individual who represents the public. This is my charge against the Government and I say it on the floor of this House that it is a fact that so long as the Government does not take with it the public of India to organise and help in the organisation of this foodgrains business, it will be impossible to give good grain to the public of India.

Sir, I will quote from the very book which perhaps is under the direction of my friend Mr Griffiths. It is the *Indian Information* dated the 1st September 1944. On page 202 it is said:

"Much controversy has centred round the question of the quality of foodgrains supplied to deficit provinces by surplus areas."

So far so good. Then, it goes on

"The recipient Administrations have complained that the grains supplied have generally been far below the average standards and that inspection arrangements have not worked satisfactorily."

My friend on the other side or even the Government Member cannot possibly deny that the foodgrains that have been supplied to the people of India have been below the eatable standard for human consumption. The report goes on to say

"The Central Government's position as regards the responsibility for inspection was clarified by Mr. B. K. Sen, the Director General, Food, in the Council of State during food debate last month when he stated that the inspection before the despatch of grains from the supplying areas was a responsibility of the receiving Provincial Governments and not of the Central Government."

Now, Sir, this is the state of affairs. The Central Government is shifting its responsibility on the Provincial Governments and the Provincial Governments in their own way are shifting their responsibility to the Central Government. Is this the way in which the people of India are to be fed? I do not object that you should not feed your soldiers. You have to feed your soldiers but not at the expense of the whole of the Indian civil population. Where will you get your soldiers from afterwards, if you do not feed the civil population properly? Is that the way in which the Government of India should manage the food production and the food policy? There may be a policy, but we are not to eat the policy, we have to eat the foodgrains and I have shown how they are being distributed according to your own paper *Indian Information*.

[At this stage, Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdul Rahim) resumed the Chair.]

It may be all right for our friends on the Government side to say that you are getting your rations. My friend Mr. Gupta has shown what is the condition in the villages. You say that you have advanced money, to the provinces and they distribute this money for food production to the ryots in the provinces. But you put some money in one pocket of the ryot and from the other pocket you take out from the same ryot to the tune of 25 per cent of his rent for war subscription. Is that the way in which food production is to be developed? It is impossible. How can the poor tenant who has to pay 25 per cent of his rent in my own province of U P thrive? The argument may be that because the tenants are making large profits over the prices of articles of food. If they are making money over the prices of their foodgrains, then they are at the same time paying much more for cloth and other necessities of life, marriages and death ceremonies.

Now, what is being sold in the villages? In my part of the province, Government has control in the cities and in some of the villages of water, light and even our food. The result will be that the people in the villages will die and die.

Now, my friend Mr. Neogy has given an illustration as to how people are dying from cholera. Yesterday I asked Mr. Tyson as to what was the condition in Gorakhpur. Hundreds of people are dying there of cholera. All this is due to the mal-nutrition which has been due to the bad administration in the villages and the cities. I remember the day when His Excellency the Viceroy visited Lucknow and you will be surprised to hear what happened. His Excellency the Viceroy went round Lucknow with His Excellency the Governor of the United Provinces. And what was the result? On the streets that the Viceroy or the Governor passes, the police is made to stand up and to guard the route. The moment the people come to know that the police is there to guard the streets, they know for a fact that there is some high official who has to pass those streets. So, the rationing shops make the arrangement to produce good articles for show only because they are not meant for sale. Is that the way in which the rationing shops are to be inspected? The best way for their inspection is not that His Excellency the Viceroy or the Governor of the province should go to inspect these shops. The moment they know that the Governor is coming they are bound to put good things in their shops.

[Mr Muhammad Ashar Ali.]

So does any of my friends like this inspection to be made by Government officials? The public have no confidence in Government which, as I said, is putting money into one pocket and taking it out from another pocket. Any one who travels on the railways has noticed lands by the side of the railway lines which can easily be cultivated by Government or with the help of cultivators. But that is not done. It is only on land which is already cultivated that they want to grow more food. Why not give good seeds and provide new land for cultivation? We cannot rely on the Agricultural Department and the Collectors about whom we have heard from Mr. Gupta. Mr. Griffiths also spoke about three Collectors whom he saw. Therefore the public must be taken into confidence, at least the members of the Assemblies should be taken into your confidence. The Assemblies may not be sitting now but Government knows them and the district officials can surely approach them as representatives of the people. But when you do not trust the public, how can you expect them to trust you? You may say that you have added new people to your staff on higher pay and imported experts from Europe and America. But they do not know the conditions in India. Have any of my friends in the European Group visited one single village here? I dare say they have not.

Mr. T. Chapman-Mortimer (Bengal European) On what basis does the Honourable Member make that statement?

Mr. Muhammad Ashar Ali: You may go for a shoot but not to study their conditions. My Honourable friend Mr. Chapman-Mortimer and his friends can pay high prices for their foodstuffs and they do not care for the villages. Does any of them hold one single village? No. Therefore they have no sympathy for the Indian peasant, they only want to have experts from abroad and nothing more.

Sir, in my own town twice every week there is a market and contractors come with lorries and buy up everything for the army. And as a result potatoes sell at Rs. 2-8-0 a seer and tomatoes at one rupee per seer. How can you expect poor villagers or towns people to buy things at such prohibitive prices? Rich people in big places like Calcutta or Delhi may buy anything at any price but it is impossible for poor people.

Now as regards *atta*. Wheat is brought from the village to the towns and then it goes to the city. Now in big cities and towns in my part of the country, there are small mills put up by some contractors. I take 2 or 5 seers of wheat there for grinding and I put my bag there. What is the guarantee that he grinds good quality of wheat. He will always mix it up. Who is to inspect it? If I make a report I have to take the whole bag to the city to prove my case to the magistrate. These are our difficulties. Then in the villages they do not get kerosene oil and cannot light up their houses. With regard to grains also whatever they produce they take to market at once, keeping just enough to last them for one year. Mr. Kirby in a statement made at Bombay said that the responsibility is of Government to supply first-class quality to the consumer. Every one knows of course, that the consumer is helpless and has to take what is offered. He also says that it is the responsibility of the producer and the cultivator. I fail to see how it can be the responsibility of the cultivator. He has to sell good quality to the contractor who would not otherwise take it. So he cannot be responsible. It is the responsibility of the contractor who is enriched by Government contracts. It is also the responsibility of Government who have got their inspecting and organising staff. Sir, I have done.

Rao Bahadur N Siva Raj (Nominated Non-Official) Mr. President, from the trend of the speeches of most Honourable Members in this House from this morning, one would get the impression that in the first place, the food situation in India was brought about by the Food Department, whereas the

truth is that the Food Department is actually the product of the food situation, and secondly, that Bengal and Bengal alone is entitled to the consideration of the Government of India in the matter of the solution of the food problem, and further that the situation that existed last year with reference to Bengal continues to exist in Bengal today. Yet another impression was created by the speech of my Honourable friend Mr. Griffiths, that all the sins that have been committed with regard to the situation in India was committed by the Government of India and that compared to the way that the British Government and the British people have tackled the problem in their own country, the Government of India was a great sinner. I always held the view and still hold the view that the food situation in India was rather sprung upon the Government of India on account of lack of forethought and planning on the part of His Majesty's Government. In the first place, His Majesty's Government were in a position to know and they were the only people to know that there was going to be a war, and that consequently all preparations with regard to food supply and so on could be made earlier by them. I do not suppose the Government of India could have ever known that war was to be declared very soon and consequently the food situation in India was due, according to me, speaking in a way, to the fall of Singapore. The maintenance of the defence of Singapore was the entire responsibility of the British Government. I do not think the then Viceroy of India or the then Commander-in-chief of India, who now happens to be the Viceroy, would have even foreseen that the Japanese would be practically at the door steps of Calcutta in such a short time and in such a quick time as from December 1941 to April 1942. I attribute this unfortunate position with regard to food in India to the circumstances beyond the control of the Government of India. I rather got the impression that my Honourable friend Mr. Griffiths when he attacked with such vehemence the Government of India, he rather wanted to draw a blind against this primary responsibility which lay upon His Majesty's Government and which responsibility His Majesty's Government did not discharge to the satisfaction of the people of India at all. However, I feel that between last year and now the situation has so considerably improved that the credit for that improvement ought to be given to the Government of India in some manner.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: Always

Rao Bahadur N. Siva Raj: It may be that nature has also helped the Government of India in restoring the confidence of the people so far as the question of food supply is concerned. There can be no doubt that the people all over India have now reconciled themselves to the fact that there is shortage of supply, not due to the fault of anybody, but due to circumstances beyond the control of the Government and of the people of India and that steps are being taken, however feeble and however, probably so far, not quite effective, steps are being taken to see that every man gets an assured supply of food. It may be that it is much less than what the authorities will call the minimum necessary for nutritive or healthy diet.

There is a feature about food situation in India also. As has been pointed out by the Honourable Food Member, this is not a problem which is entirely new, or which is entirely due to the war. As I already pointed out once before, the fact that it has shifted from the village to the city does not alter the position, namely, that all the time there were a certain number of people in India who never got any food at all, or who got very little food. This is unfortunately due to the structure of Indian society and the Indian economy for years and years. The Indian society has always kept at its disposal a certain section of the population to be offered as a sort of sacrifice whenever there was a terrible strain on its economy, especially food economy. Whenever there was famine, or flood or epidemic, there was always a certain section of people who were sacrificed and they were nearly all the same section of people. That is the people who always bore the brunt of these unfortunate emergencies. It is those people who always lived on the outskirts of villages. Today

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We hear many Honourable friends referring to the condition of the villages and all the steps that have been taken so far have been really to help the people residing in urban areas and the villages have not been looked after. If that is the condition with regard to the regular people who are called peasants and who hold lands in the villages, then it must be worse in the case of those who happen unfortunately to be on the outskirts of villages, and always live as landless labourers. I appeal to the Honourable the Food Member to see that these people who live below, as I would call, the starvation line, or just above the starvation line are looked after in the first instance in any scheme that he may bring forward now or in the future to tackle the food situation in India. It is very important that those people who have got lower incomes or no incomes at all should in the first place be looked after by the Government of India. I need not say that most of these people happen to belong to the community from which I come.

As a feature of the food situation in India, the Honourable the Food Member pointed out to us that the majority, two thirds of the population in India live on rice, and that the rest of the population live mainly on wheat and that people who have wheat diet live in the wheat producing areas which happen to be surplus areas and that people living on rice live in areas which are deficit areas, practically speaking. From that one can say that rice is in short supply actually. I have a few suggestions to make to the Honourable the Food Member in the matter of attempting to see how more rice can be produced. In the first place, I would suggest to him that in what are called surplus areas, particularly wheat producing areas which also produce rice, the Government of India should formulate a scheme by which they can enlarge the scope of cultivation and increase the acreage of cultivation of rice in those wheat producing areas. Secondly, I suggest that the Government of India should undertake either by all-India legislation or by co-ordinated provincial legislation to see—as I was told it was done in the Bombay Presidency by the Bombay Government—that the lands which are now under what are called cash crops are gradually reduced and more lands are brought under cultivation of rice. In case people should say that they would suffer or lose by converting lands from cash crop cultivation to rice cultivation, the Government should also provide for subsidy by legislation.

The next suggestion that I would make to the Honourable Member would be to see that that even in these cases where lands are cultivated with paddy, the Government can offer to them a kind of bonus above a certain amount of production. For instance, if any person cultivates land and uses extra fertilisers or manure to produce more rice, I think if the Government offers him a bonus, he would attempt to produce more rice even on the existing land. I feel, Sir, that these are some methods by which more rice can be cultivated.

I will also join with the Honourable the Food Member in his appeal to those people who are living in wheat-producing areas and who have wheat as their main diet, to see, as far as possible, if they could not spare the rice that they produce in those areas.

Now, I come to the position in Madras, particularly in Malabar, and in those areas, as the Honourable Member has said, the quantity of food that is given is far below the quantity that they ought to take. I think in Malabar it is only about 12 ounces a day.

Mr. Manu Subedar (Indian Merchants' Chamber and Bureau—Indian Commerce): Eight ounces.

Rao Bahadur N. Siva Raj: It is about 8 to 12 ounces. That is a diet on which I do not suppose any person can live. Government was taking immediate steps to see that rice is taken to Madras, particularly to Malabar and Vizigapatam. In this respect I would appeal to my Honourable friends from Bengal not to overstate their case for Bengal. I personally think and honestly feel that the situation which existed last year does not exist today and as

everybody knows there has not only been bumper crop in Bengal but also quite a lot of tonnage of food has been taken to Bengal. I do hope therefore that both the Members from Bengal and the Government of India will change their attitude in the altered circumstances so far as Bengal is concerned, and send a portion of the food that is now being sent to Bengal towards Madras side where, as everybody knows, the situation is grave. Travancore, Cochin, Malabar and Vizagapatam are all going short of food.

In his speech the Honourable Member I think forgot to mention one other area—the Ceded Districts in the Madras Presidency. The Ceded Districts are notorious for famine conditions which continually exist in those parts. I do not know if by way of oversight he has not mentioned the Ceded Districts of Madras. I would, however, like to know the position with regard to the Ceded Districts. I unfortunately come from one of those districts.

Then with regard to the price. We are all accustomed to hear in this House different groups talking for themselves. The consumers said that prices must be fixed, the producers at once jumped up and said that their prices must be fixed, and the Government, as usual, said that they were trying to effect a sort of compromise between the two in order to arrive at an equitable price. In this country, those who have known the various kinds of land systems and land tenure that exist, are aware that it has always been only one set of people that have benefited by the holding of land, and if it is true that 90 per cent of the population of this country live for their sustenance upon agricultural holdings, it will also be true that only those who have got the control of land can benefit by the produce of land. What has happened recently? We saw that all those people who are in the control of land, and consequently of the produce of land, withheld the produce from its normal circulation, they reserved something for their own consumption and the rest they sent to the blackmarket. We have all seen that and have tried to stop it. I have always felt that the system of land holding in this country has been such as to make only one class of people get the benefit out of the land and the rest of the population, who have nothing whatever to do with the land and who, as a matter of fact, are the only people who are responsible for the produce of the land, go without food. It has been so in the past. It is true that the Government of India took this position seriously into consideration and rectified the position. As long as that system exists, there will always be a class of people who will be thrown entirely out of any scheme which will provide food for the generality of the population.

I also want to impress upon the Government of India the necessity for seeing that wages for agricultural labour, whenever they are paid, are paid in kind. They ought to be paid in kind. A cry has been raised in this respect but it looks to me to be a cry—“what is the use of paying even higher price to the producers or to the labourers, what the use of controlling the price of foodgrains because everything else goes up in price.” It was very curious that people while talking about foodgrains—rice, wheat and things like that—should also talk in the same breath of Horlicks Malted Milk. I am only surprised that they did not talk of Talcum Face Powder or Cutex! And so, Sir, I feel that now the time has come when the Government of India should reverse its policy of food procurement and distribution. Last year they were perfectly justified in bringing to the cities and the towns the supplies that were available in the villages at a great cost and probably by paying high prices to the producers. Now the time has come for the Government of India to reverse that policy and take the food back to the villages, to see that the villagers, who draw lower income, and people who are landless labourers get their food. For, whatever may be said about these people, the fact remains that they are as much human beings as the Honourable Members in this House, as people in big cities and towns, and, if I may say so, as the Honourable Members on the Treasury Benches. The Government of India should also take steps to see that the Provincial Governments follow the principle of first

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settling the landless labourers upon the new land which is being brought under cultivation under the Grow More Food campaign

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Under co-operative system

Rao Bahadur N. Siva Raj: I know my Honourable friend, Prof. Ranga, is entirely in sympathy with my point of view, and I also generally endorse most of the statements that he has made today, except some of the vehemence with which he attacked the food policy of the Government of India, which I think was equalled only by the vehemence of my Honourable friend, Mr Griffiths, the only difference being that the latter did not wear a Gandhi cap!

I would request the Government of India to see that if and when the Provincial Governments reclaim new lands under the Grow More Food campaign or give subsidies for bringing more land under cultivation, that the landless labourers in the villages are first settled on those lands and they are given the right to occupy and cultivate those lands

With these words I congratulate the Food Member for what he has been able to do so far in improving the food situation in the country.

Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hedge (West Coast and Nilgiris Non-Muhammadian Rural) I support the amendment moved by Mr P. S. Aiyasalingam Chettiar. The first clause refers to the fixation of price and the attempt that is being made by the Central Government to bring down the prices in the provinces. While I was discussing this matter about a month ago with the Civil Supplies Commissioner, Madras, I came to know that the Regional Food Commissioner, who is a servant of the Central Government in Madras, was trying to bring down the prices now fixed in the presidency of Madras. We all know that the agriculturist class is going to be adversely affected by bringing down the prices. When we remember that the population of this country consists more than 80 per cent of agriculturists, the price which is ultimately fixed must be a fair and reasonable one so that this large class of people may not suffer. If there is a cry to lower down prices of grains it is the cry of the 20 per cent of the non-agriculturists, mostly town-dwellers and Government servants. The food policy as it has been followed so far has gone to satisfy in the first place the Government servants, in the second place the town-dwellers who are fortunate to have statutory rationing in their towns, and thirdly such class of vociferous people who could manage to get as much grain as possible. But people who reside in semi-urban areas and in the rural parts of the country are the people who are forgotten and their cries are not heard at all.

While fixing statutory price various factors must enter into proper consideration. The Central Government must give up their attempt to have a common price for the whole country. This is impossible to achieve because the productive capacity of the land in different districts is different and the pressure of population in different districts in this country is also different. Thirdly, the system of land revenue that prevails is different in different provinces, sometimes different in the different districts in the same province. Fourthly, the cost of cattle and the cost of cattle fodder which is prohibitive in these days must also be considered. Sir, it is a well known fact that in my constituency of Malabar and South Kanara the cost of cattle has increased by five or six times, my district was getting cattle from Mysore but for the last two years the Mysore Government has prohibited the export of cattle into my district. The result is the price today is nearly six or seven times the pre-war price, of the cattle fodder, particularly the horse gram, which we were getting from Bengal in pre-war days but which is completely stopped to day, the price has gone up by seven or eight times. Therefore, these are the real factors which should be considered while fixing a fair price for grain.

Sir, there is also the question of the living standard of the producers. Today we know, even in towns, it is very difficult to get medicine. To give you my own personal experience. Some three days back I went for medicine to the

amous Kemp & Co I was refused the supply I was directed to a doctor to get a prescription from him. If this is the condition prevalent in the town of Delhi, you can imagine the condition prevailing in the villages of this country. It is almost impossible for rural people to get medicine in the open market. They will have to buy their medicine in the black market and pay very heavily for it.

The second clause deals with the question of procurement and supply and to get rid of the middlemen in the process I would very much like to recommend the method which we have followed in our district. We started a wholesale co-operative society some two years ago and to-day it is recognised by the Government of Madras and the entire grain available in the district and purchased from other districts by the district authorities is handled by this Society. Their transactions run up to a crore of rupees and no person, whether a trader or otherwise, is permitted to handle or deal with grains. This is a method which ought to be encouraged by the Central Government in all other provinces in the country.

But our experience with regard to distribution has not been happy, the distribution part of the work is being handled by the Revenue Department of the Government, we have found when the stock available in the district was dwindling the Government of Madras at one time refused to supply the necessary amount of rice to my district. You will remember on the last occasion I attempted to move two adjournment motions in this House. At the time of first motion a statement was made that this district was self-sufficient but at the time of the second adjournment motion my district was promised 1,500 tons of rice per month. But the rice due in March came in June and the rice due in June came in August and the rice due in August came in October and to my surprise I found it was not only the railway that was responsible for the delay in transport but it also showed that the procurement machinery in the surplus districts of the presidency was faulty. What is more, the Honourable the Food Member has admitted that the Madras Presidency has been the second largest importer of rice in the pre-war days and in those circumstances it was a surprise to me when he said that the Government of Madras undertook not to make any demand from the Centre for its needs. I really do not know, especially when the Grow More Food campaign has achieved nothing in that province how the Government of Madras undertook to feed their population without any help from outside. I know they have been unable to do it. When my district had only five days supply I had to seek the protection of the Honourable the Food Member and it was only after his intervention that my district was supplied with two months further supply.

There is a tendency in the Central Government to overlook the question of distribution. If the food administration is going to succeed, 95 per cent of its work ought to be in the matter of distribution. Procurement to my knowledge has succeeded very well because of the police force and the threat of the process of law that is used at the time of procurement. Today notices are issued to all agriculturists to part with their grain even before the harvest is completed and without any consideration whether what is left behind would be sufficient for him to keep his body and soul together until the next harvest. This policy of procurement without leaving sufficient to the producer is going to be a very dangerous game. You cannot kill the goose that lays the golden egg. Apart from the policy of Grow More Food campaign, the procurement policy which is followed today by the Madras Government is a very faulty one and no attempt is made to see whether the real grower has sufficient to maintain himself and his family until the next harvest.

Sir, I once more request the Honourable Member that the question of distribution must be really attended to by the Central Government. To my surprise I found when I came here that it is only after two days I could get my ration card. In my town where there is statutory rationing, I found that a boarding house consisting of 22 students had to starve three days before they got their rationing card. The rationing system which is followed today is

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definitely faulty and the cry of the semi-urban areas and the rural parts is really a cry in the wilderness. I can give you facts and figures to show that in the village within five miles from Mangalore town where there is no statutory rationing, to a population of 7579 people only 80 maunds of rice were supplied in the month of October. That comes to nearly two ounces per head per day. If this is going to be the kind of food administration we are to have hereafter, let God forbid, we do not want to have it.

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed (Leader of the House) Sir, there is a general desire from all sections of the House that the question hour may be dispensed with tomorrow in order to enable the House to discuss the Food resolution the whole day. We shall be grateful if you would agree.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) If that is the general desire of the House I am willing to comply with the request. The question will be dispensed with tomorrow.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Thursday the 9th November, 1944.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Thursday, 9th November, 1944

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber of the Council House at Eleven of the Clock, Mr President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) in the Chair.

★STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

WRITTEN ANSWER

COMMUNAL COMPOSITION IN HIGHER POSTS OF THE EXTERNAL AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT

204. *Sardar Sant Singh: Will the Foreign Secretary please state the number of posts carrying monthly salaries of Rs 500 to Rs 750, Rs 750 to Rs 1,000, Rs 1,000 to Rs 1,500 and Rs 1,500 and above, in his Department, and the number held by (i) Europeans, (ii) Anglo-Indians, (iii) Muslims, (iv) Hindus, (v) Sikhs, and (vi) others under each category?

Sir Olaf Caroe:

First Part—

(i) nil, (ii) two, (iii) nil, (iv) two, (v) nil, (vi) one,

Second Part—

(i) nil, (ii) three, (iii) nil, (iv) one, (v) and (vi) nil,

Third Part—

(i) one, (ii) one, (iii) one (iv) two, (v) and (vi) nil,

Fourth Part—

(i) three, (ii) to (vi) nil

COMMUNAL COMPOSITION IN HIGHER POSTS OF OFFICES UNDER THE WAR TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT

205. *Sardar Sant Singh: Will the Honourable Member for the War Transport Department please state the number of posts carrying monthly salaries of Rs 500 to Rs 750, Rs 750 to Rs 1,000, Rs 1,000 to Rs 1,500 and Rs 1,500 and above in (i) the War Transport Department, (ii) the Regional Priority Authorities, (iii) the Coal Control Organisation, (iv) the Country Craft Organisation, and (v) the Major Port Authorities? How many of these posts under each category are held by (i) Europeans, (ii) Anglo-Indians, (iii) Hindus, (iv) Muslims, and (v) Sikhs?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I lay a statement on the table which gives the required information

Statement

	Europeans	Anglo-Indians	Hindus	Muslims	Sikhs	Other Communitics	Total
I—WAR TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT							
(i) Posts carrying salaries of Rs 500 to Rs 750		1	10				11
(ii) Posts carrying salaries of Rs 750 to Rs 1,000	1½		5	1			7
(iii) Posts carrying salaries of Rs 1,000 to Rs 1,500	1		4				5
(iv) Posts carrying salaries of Rs 1,500 and above	11+4½		2			1	18
[Note—The posts against which a double dagger is shown are in the Regional Port Directorate Calcutta.]							

†The question hour of today having been eliminated, the answers to starred questions were, in pursuance of convention, laid on the table of House—Ed. of D

	Euro- peans	Anglo- Indians	Hindus	Muslims	Sikhs	Other Communi- ties	Total
II—REGIONAL PRIORITY AUTHORITIES							
<i>(a) Office of the Regional Controller of Railway Priorities, Calcutta (West)</i>							
(i) Rs 500 to Rs 750 . . .							
(ii) Rs 750 to Rs 1,000 . . .							
(iii) Rs 1,000 to Rs 1,500 . . .		1					1
(iv) Rs 1,500 and above . . .		1					1
<i>(b) Office of the Regional Controller of Railway Priorities, Calcutta (North)</i>							
(i) Rs 500 to Rs 750 . . .				1			1
(ii) Rs 750 to Rs 1,000 . . .							
(iii) Rs 1,000 to Rs 1,500 . . .		1					1
(iv) Rs 1,500 and above . . .		1					1
<i>(c) Office of the Regional Controller of Railway Priorities, Bombay</i>							
(i) Rs 500 to Rs 750 . . .				1			1
(ii) Rs 750 to Rs 1,000 . . .				1			1
(iii) Rs 1,000 to Rs 1,500 . . .							
(iv) Rs 1,500 and above . . .							
<i>(d) Office of the Regional Controller of Railway Priorities, Madras</i>							
(i) Rs 500 to Rs 750 . . .				1			1
(ii) Rs 750 to Rs 1,000 . . .							
(iii) Rs 1,000 to Rs 1,500 . . .							
(iv) Rs 1,500 and above . . .		1					1
<i>(e) Office of the Regional Controller of Railway Priorities, Lahore</i>							
(i) Rs 500 to Rs 750 . . .			1				1
(ii) Rs 750 to Rs 1,000 . . .							
(iii) Rs 1,000 to Rs 1,500 . . .							
(iv) Rs 1,500 and above . . .		1					1
<i>(f) Office of the Deputy Regional Controller of Railway Priorities, Gorakhpur.</i>							
(i) Rs 500 to Rs 750 . . .							
(ii) Rs 750 to Rs 1,000 . . .							
(iii) Rs 1,000 to Rs 1,500 . . .		1					1
(iv) Rs 1,500 and above . . .							
III—COAL CONTROL ORGANISATION							
(i) Rs 500 to Rs 750 . . .			3	7	5	1	19
(ii) Rs 750 to Rs 1,000 . . .		5	2	6		1	14
(iii) Rs 1,000 to Rs 1,500 . . .		4	2	2	1		9
(iv) Rs 1,500 and above . . .		16		1	2		19
IV—COUNTRY CRAFT ORGANISATION							
(i) Rs 500 to Rs 750 . . .			1	1			2
(ii) Rs 750 to Rs 1,000 . . .		1					1
(iii) Rs 1,000 to Rs 1,500 . . .				1			1
(iv) Rs 1,500 and above . . .							

	Euro- peans	Anglo- Indians	Hindus	Muslims	Sikhs	Other Commu- nities	Total
V — MAJOR PORT AUTHORITIES							
<i>(a) Commissioners for the Port of Calcutta</i>							
(i) Rs 500 to Rs 750 .	2	44	16	1		1	64
(ii) Rs 750 to Rs 1,000 .	20	36	4		1		61
(iii) Rs 1,000 to Rs 1,500 .	55	26	6	2			89
(iv) Rs 1,500 and above .	19	1	1				21
<i>(b) Commissioners for the Port of Chittagong</i>							
(i) Rs 500 to Rs 750 .	1		1				2
(ii) Rs 750 to Rs 1,000 .	2		1				3
(iii) Rs 1,000 to Rs 1,500 .	1						1
(iv) Rs 1,500 and above .	1						1
<i>(c) Madras Port Trust</i>							
(i) Rs 500 to Rs 750 .		2	2			2	6
(ii) Rs 750 to Rs 1,000 .	1		1				2
(iii) Rs 1,000 to Rs 1,500 .	6		1				7
(iv) Rs 1,500 and above .	3						3
<i>(d) Bombay Port Trust</i>							
(i) Rs 500 to Rs 750 .	11	7	12	6		10	46
(ii) Rs 750 to Rs 1,000 .	6	3	3	1		5	18
(iii) Rs 1,000 to Rs 1,500 .	27		9	1		9	46
(iv) Rs 1,500 and above .	7		1			2	10
<i>(e) Cochin Harbour</i>							
(i) Rs 500 to Rs 750 .			2	1		1	4
(ii) Rs 750 to Rs 1,000 .	2		2				4
(iii) Rs 1,000 to Rs 1,500 .	5						5
(iv) Rs 1,500 and above .	1						1

Note — Figures for the major ports are based on the maximum pay of each post. Information regarding Karachi Port Trust is not available.

SINKING OF THE S S "CORMORANT"

206. *Mr. K. C. Neogy: (a) Will the Honourable the Railway and War Transport Member be pleased to make a statement relating to the circumstances under which the O.T.R. steamer "Cormorant" foundered in September last while on ferry service across the Ganges between Patna and Palezaghata?

(b) Has any enquiry been held into the causes of this incident? If so, by whom and with what results?

(c) What is the number of casualties that occurred in this connection?

(d) When was the S S "Cormorant" built, and is the Honourable Member satisfied that its repairs and renewals were being properly carried out during the last few years, and that the vessel was in every way fit for service?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) to (c) In view of the length of the statement for which the Honourable Member has asked and of the fact that I have already stated the main facts when dealing with the adjournment motion moved by Mr Mohd Abdul Ghani on November 3rd, I will, Sir, with your permission and in order to save the time of the House, lay the statement on the table.

(d) S S Cormorant was built in 1883 and has been maintained in a good state of repair. The vessel has been laid up for survey every year and dry-docked every four years. The last date of survey was 8th January 1944 and was last dry-docked on 10th December 1942. Government are satisfied that the vessel was in every way fit for service.

Statement

On the 12th September 1944, the *Steamer Cormorant* was proceeding along the usual main channel from Dighaghat to Paleaghat. When opposite the Palea village and about the 800 ft from the northern bank of the Ganges the bow of the steamer suddenly struck against some hard substance—supposed to be a submerged tree trunk—there was a severe bump, and suspecting that the Steamer had collided with some submerged object, the Commander ordered the steamer to be stopped and backed towards the bank and, at the same time, sounded the danger whistle. The steamer was moved backward to the northern bank which it not only touched, but the stern penetrated to a distance of about 6 to 10 ft into the bank. While the steamer was being backed all the pumps had been put into action to empty it of any river water that had got in. It remained in contact with the bank for about 20 minutes during which period the lower deck was on the same level as the bank. This enabled the passengers to land without difficulty. The fact that all the 37 lifebuoys which were on the steamer were subsequently found intact shows that the passengers found no need to use them and, there was no occasion for any one to jump into the stream. The country boats in the vicinity immediately came to the rescue and were wedged in between the steamer and the bank thus enabling all remaining passengers to get ashore safely. They were later picked up by other Railway steamers and taken on to Paleaghat.

The danger whistle was heard both at Paleaghat and Dighaghat and the Railway, the Police and the Medical staff quickly arrived on the scene and rendered all possible assistance. The only loss of life which has so far been reported was that of a girl of about six years. The girl got separated from her mother in the confusion which followed the accident and fell into the river. The fact that no one has so far come forward to enquire about any missing friend or relation, although several passengers subsequently came in search of their belongings amongst the salvaged property, also goes to show that no one other than the child mentioned above lost life.

S.S. Cormorant had a carrying capacity of 1,000 and, at the time of the accident, was carrying about 600 passengers.

On the 18th September 1944, a joint enquiry was held which consisted of the Divisional Traffic Superintendent, the Divisional Loco. Officer and the Resident Engineer, Gorakhpur. The enquiry was also attended by the Superintendent, Government Railway Police, Samastipur and the Sub-Divisional Officer, Chapra. The enquiry committee, after inspecting the site of the occurrence and examining a number of witnesses, came to the conclusion that the accident was not due to any rash or negligent act on the part of the Commander. It is reported that there are some submerged tree trunks in the bed of the river. The channel is swept every now and then and dangerous spots are buoyed. These submerged tree trunks gradually roll on and if the water level is high it is difficult to locate them. There was no such obstruction in the route when the previous steamer had passed. It is believed that the force of the current moved the tree trunk from its position during the interval between the passing of the previous steamer and the arrival of the *Cormorant*.

In these circumstances Government are satisfied that the accident was an accident and no one could be held responsible for it.

TELEGRAPHIC DELAYS

207. *Mr. C. P. Lawson: (a) Will the Secretary for Posts and Air be pleased to state whether he is aware of the considerable telegraphic delays which are occurring particularly between Delhi and Calcutta and whether he is prepared to give the House information as to the causes and as to the steps now being taken to improve matters?

(b) Is it a fact that telegrams are despatched through the post during periods of congestion although the full telegraphic costs are collected?

(c) Would it not be correct for telegraph offices to refuse to accept telegraphic charges in cases where the telegram will be despatched through the post and to provide facilities for the posting of the original telegrams by normal means?

(d) Would it be feasible during periods of congestion to divide destinations into regions which could be closed for telegraph traffic according to the extent of the congestion, i.e., bar telegrams for the nearer destinations to which postal communication takes only a few hours more than telegraphic communication?

(e) Would it be correct to say that a very large number of telegrams are now delivered so late that refunds of telegraphic charges on a very large scale would require to be made if demanded, and, if so, what steps are being taken to remedy the situation?

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: (a) I am aware that there have been serious delays in the past but in recent months there has been substantial improvement generally and it is hoped that the improvement will be maintained.

(b) Yes

(c) The question of suspending acceptance of telegrams during periods of delays on telegraph circuits has been carefully considered from time to time, and it has been decided that such suspension is undesirable except in very special circumstances. The situation fluctuates rapidly and usually telegraph communication is established within a comparatively short period, on a limited scale at least, either directly or by alternative routes. The public is advised of interruptions and serious delays to traffic on all main circuits and more precise information is available at telegraph offices. If senders tender telegrams in these conditions they must accept all risks arising from delay.

(d) and (e) No

BRINGING OF THE OUDH AND TIRHUT RAILWAY INTO LINE WITH STATE RAILWAYS.

208. *Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state whether the Bengal Nagpur Railway and the Rohilkhand and Kumaon Railway which have been purchased by the Government and transformed into the present Oudh and Tirhut Railway, have been brought into line with the other State-owned Railways?

(b) Have the pay and emoluments of the subordinate staff been brought up to the standard of the other State Railways?

(c) How many officers of the old companies have been retired, and how many of them are still in the employment of the Oudh and Tirhut Railway?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) The Bengal and North Western Railway (not the Bengal-Nagpur Railway) and the Rohilkhand and Kumaon Railway have been merged in the Oudh and Tirhut Railway. If the Honourable Member means the status of the Railway for administrative purposes after coming under State-management, the reply is in the affirmative.

(b) I would refer the Honourable Member to my reply to part (c) of Mr. N. M. Joshi's Unstarred Question No. 146 asked in this House on the 21st March 1911.

(c) The total number of officers of the two late companies re-employed by Government was 90, out of which five have since retired and the rest are still in service. In addition, Government did not re-employ five officers, who had already attained the age of superannuation.

RAISING OF EMOLUMENTS OF SUBORDINATE POSTAL STAFF

209. *Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: (a) Will the Secretary for Posts and Air be pleased to state if there is a scheme under active consideration to raise the pay and allowance of the Subordinate Postal Staff?

(b) Did the Director General of Posts and Telegraphs recommend a sliding scale of Dearness Allowance to these low paid officials? If so why has it not been given effect to?

(c) Have any provisions been made for such low paid Postal employees to get their supplies of cheap grain and cloth from the cheap grain control shops?

Mr. W. H. Shoberb: (a) The reply is in the negative.

(b) The Director General did not recommend a sliding scale of dearness allowance. The second part of the question does not, therefore, arise.

(c) Wherever Provincial Government employees are getting supplies of grain at concessional rates, the concession has been extended to the P & T staff who obtain supplies from the Local Government shops or from departmental shops. Where the benefits of sale of grain at controlled rates are extended to all local residents in any area, the P & T staff can of course take advantage of them. It is understood that standard cloth is freely available at all places.

BOMBAY EXPLOSION

210. *Mr. K. S. Gupta: (a) Is the Honourable Member for War Transport aware that the fire and explosions in the Bombay docks in April last were an avoidable tragedy?

(b) Are Government aware that carelessness and ignorance on the part of individual officers resulted in the serious tragedy? If so, what is the action taken by the Government of India against the offenders, and what precautions were taken to avoid such calamities?

(c) Is the Government of India satisfied that there was no lack of co-ordination between the various authorities, and that there was no serious lacunae in the relevant rules and regulations?

(d) Is it not a fact that the burdening of key-personnel with dual responsibilities came in conflict with each other and resulted in the avoidable tragedy?

(e) Is it not a fact that when the fire broke out in hold No 2 of S S "Fort Stikine" on April 14th, neither the N O I C, nor the Commodore, R I N, was informed of it all, though the Deputy Conservator of the Port Trust happened to be at the spot at 2-30 p.m., that is more than an hour and a half before the first explosion took place?

(f) Are not the following serious lapses contributory to the lamentable and avoidable tragedy—

- (i) non-hoisting of red-flag on the ship entering the dock,
- (ii) disorder in the fire brigade cutting apparatus,
- (iii) non-observance of rules against smoking,
- (iv) absence of proper liaison between the Civil and the Military police on the one hand and the civilian watchmen on the other
- (v) absence of arrangements to clear the docks of non-essential personnel or to give general warning of the impending explosion,
- (vi) the absence of the centralised executive control with power to issue paramount orders and co-ordinate the various authorities and services concerned, and

(vii) the presence on board of such a highly inflammable material as cotton that precipitates the accident?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) I would refer the Honourable Member to "the First Report" of the Commission of Inquiry in the Bombay explosions", copy of which was laid on the table of the House on November 6th.

(b) I would refer the Honourable Member to the Resolution¹ of the Government of India dated September 12, 1944, copy of which was laid on the table of the House on November 6th. As regards the precautions taken the Honourable Member may also refer to the press note issued on October 28th, setting out the main lines of action taken to prevent a repetition of the occurrence.

(c) The rules previously in force were reasonably comprehensive in the circumstances existing prior to the explosion, but the Government of India agree that they might have been better co-ordinated. As a result of the accident, the rules and regulations have been exhaustively examined, revised and co-ordinated.

(d) It is not a fact that this was a contributory cause.

(e) Yes, except that the Deputy Conservator was not on the spot until 3 p.m. Further in view of the fact that scuttling or beaching the ship was proved to be no remedy for the situation, the presence of the naval officers would have been of no value from this point of view.

(f) The Government of India agree generally with the findings of the Commission regarding the inadequacies referred to in this part of the question. Although the Commission have found that the bringing of explosives into docks in war-time was a primary cause of the explosion they have stated that there was, in their opinion, no practicable alternative to it.

DISCONTINUANCE OF DIRECT TRAIN BETWEEN ALLAHABAD AND SAHARANPUR

211. *Qasim Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state if it is a fact that prior to the disturbances of 1942, a passenger train used directly to run between Saharanpur and Allahabad via Unchahar?

(b) Is it or is it not a fact that this was the only train which connected Rae Bareilly with Allahabad via Unchahar?

¹Not printed in these debates, but a copy has been placed in the Library of the House—
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(c) Is it or is it not a fact that now only one passenger train runs between Saharanpur and Lucknow, and another between Lucknow and Allahabad via Unchahar, but these two trains have not got the old connections?

(d) Are the Government aware that the discontinuance of the direct train between Allahabad and Saharanpur is causing great inconvenience to the public in general and to the litigant public in particular?

(e) Have the Government considered the advisability of restoring the old passenger train between Allahabad and Saharanpur?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) and (b) Without the time tables of the period, which are not readily available, I am unable to verify these statements, but am prepared to accept them as correct.

(c) Yes, one passenger train runs between Saharanpur and Lucknow. There is a connecting train from Lucknow to Cawnpore which in turn connects with the train at Unao for Allahabad via Unchahar. The train from Lucknow to Allahabad via Rae-Bareilly and Unchahar does not provide direct connection at Lucknow with the Saharanpur-Lucknow Passenger.

(d) The curtailment of any passenger service must necessarily entail a certain amount of inconvenience to the travelling public.

(e) No. The discontinuance of the old train is part of the general curtailment of all but the most essential passenger services in the present emergency. I am, however, bringing this question to the notice of the General Manager of the East Indian Railway.

PRODUCTION CESS ON DESPATCHES OF COAL

212. *Mr. K. C. Neogy: (a) Will the Honourable the Supply Member be pleased to state the objects with which a production cess has recently been levied on despatches of coal?

(b) What is the approximate annual income expected to be derived from this cess?

(c) What proportion of the income thus derived will approximately be spent on different heads appertaining to the development of the collieries?

(d) To what extent will the different grades of collieries be able to participate in the benefits of the fund?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: (a) The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the preamble and Clause 3(3) of the Coal Production Fund Ordinance, 1944, a copy of which is laid on the table of the House.

(b) Taking annual coal despatches as about 25.6 million tons and the rate of cess as Rs. 1-4-0 per ton, the annual income under the cess is estimated to be about Rs. 320 lakhs.

(c) and (d) As the cess has only recently been levied it is not possible at this stage to indicate the amounts which will be spent under different heads and the extent to which collieries of different grades will be benefited.

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

* LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT

New Delhi, the 26th August, 1944

ORDINANCE No XXXIX OF 1944

AN

ORDINANCE

to constitute a fund for the financing of activities for the improvement of production, marketing and distribution of coal and coke

WHEREAS an emergency has arisen which makes it necessary to constitute a fund for the financing of activities for the improvement of production, marketing and distribution of coal and coke,

Now, THEREFORE, in exercise of the powers conferred by section 72 of the Government of India Act, as set out in the Ninth Schedule to the Government of India Act, 1935 (25 Geo 5, c. 2), the Governor General is pleased to make and promulgate the following Ordinance —

1 Short Title extent and commencement—(1) This Ordinance may be called the Coal Production Fund Ordinance, 1944

(2) It extends to the whole of British India

(3) It shall come into force at once

2 Imposition and collection of Excise and Customs Duties—(1) With effect from such date as the Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, appoint in this behalf there shall be levied and collected as a cess for the purposes of this Ordinance, on all coal and coke despatched from collieries in British India a duty of excise at such rate not exceeding one rupee and four annas per ton as may from time to time be fixed by the Central Government by notification in the official Gazette

Provided that the Central Government may, by notification in the official Gazette, exempt from liability to the duty of excise any specified class or classes of coal or coke,

(2) During the period in which a duty of excise is being levied under sub-section (1) the Central Government may by notification in the official Gazette levy and collect as a cess for the purposes of this Ordinance, a duty of customs on all coal and coke brought into British India from any foreign country or from the territory of any Indian State, at a rate equivalent to the rate of the duty of excise levied under sub-section (1)

Provided that the duty of customs shall not be levied on any class or classes of coal or coke for the time being exempted from liability to the duty of excise under the proviso to sub-section (1)

(3) A duty levied under this section shall be in addition to any other duty of excise or customs for the time being leviable under any other law

(4) The duties imposed by this section shall be subject to and in accordance with the rules made under this Ordinance in this behalf be collected on behalf of the Central Government by such agencies and in such manner as may be prescribed by the rules

3 The Coal Production Fund—(1) The proceeds of the duties imposed by section 2 shall be credited to a fund to be called the Coal Production Fund (hereinafter referred to as 'the Fund')

(2) The Fund shall be applied by the Central Government to meet expenditure incurred on measures which in the opinion of the Central Government it is necessary or expedient to take for the improvement of production marketing or distribution of coal or coke

(3) Without prejudice to the generality of sub-section (2) the Fund may be utilised to defray

(a) the cost of administering the Fund,

(b) the salaries and allowances of any of Inspectors and other officers who may be appointed to supervise or carry out the activities financed from the Fund,

(c) the grant of bonuses to colliery owners for increased output of coal,

(d) the deficit, if any, on any scheme for establishing and maintaining labour camps in collieries under the supervision of the Central Government for the purpose of providing such labour for work in collieries and for providing for the transport of colliery labour to and from work,

(e) the deficit, if any on any scheme for the procurement and sale of colliery stores and equipment,

(f) the grant to a Provincial Government a local authority or the owner agent or manager of a colliery of money in aid of any scheme approved by the Central Government for the improved production marketing or distribution of coal or coke,

(g) the cost of administering any system of control for the time being in force of the production marketing or distribution of coal or coke,

(h) any other expenditure which the Central Government directs to be defrayed from the Fund

(4) The Central Government shall have power to decide whether any particular expenditure is or is not debitable to the Fund and its decision shall be final

(5) The Central Government shall publish annually in such form and manner as may be prescribed by rules an account of all sums received into and paid out of the Fund

4 Appointment and Powers of Officers—(1) The Central Government may appoint Inspectors and other officers to supervise or carry out the activities financed from the Fund

(2) Any officers so appointed shall be deemed to be public servants within the meaning of section 21 of the Indian Penal Code

(3) Any Inspector may with such assistance if any as he thinks fit, enter at any reasonable time any place which he considers it necessary to enter for the purpose of supervising or carrying out the activities financed from the Fund, and may do therein anything necessary for the proper discharge of his duties

5 Power to make rules—(1) The Central Government may, by notification in the official Gazette, make rules to carry into effect the purposes and the provisions of this Ordinance

(2) Without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing power, rules made under this section may provide for—

(a) the manner in which the duties imposed by this Ordinance shall be collected, the persons who shall be liable to make the payments, the making of refunds, remissions

and recovers, the deduction by collecting agencies of a percentage of the realisations to cover the cost of collection, and the procedure to be followed in remitting the proceeds to the credit of the Central Government,

(h) the conditions governing the grant of bonuses from the Fund under clause (c) of sub-section (3) of section 3,

(i) the conditions governing the grant of money from the Fund to a Provincial Government a local authority or the owner, agent or manager of a coal-mine,

(j) the duties of the officers appointed to supervise or carry out the activities financed from the Fund,

(k) the form of, and the manner of preparing, the account referred to in sub-section (5) of section 3,

(l) the furnishing by owners or agents or managers of coal-mines of statistical or other information, and the punishment by fine of failure to comply with the requirements of an rule made under this clause

CO-ORDINATION OF GRADES OF CERTAIN TIME CHECKERS AND MATERIAL CHECKERS ON EAST INDIAN RAILWAY

213. *Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall: Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state

(a) if it is a fact that at Jamalpur the grade of the old East Indian Railway Time Checkers and the grade of the old East Indian Railway Material Checkers were Rs 16-2-30 and Rs 16-2-40 respectively,

(b) if it is a fact that both the grades were abolished and one co-ordinated grade of Rs 24-2-40 was brought into effect from the year 1930,

(c) if it is a fact that there is an old East Indian Railway grade V clerks of Rs 28-4-80,

(d) if it is a fact that there is a co-ordinated grade V clerks of Rs 28-3-52 from the year 1928,

(e) if it is a fact that the old East Indian Railway grade Time Checkers and Material Checkers when they used to cross their grade on promotion used to go over to the old East Indian Railway grade V clerks of Rs 28-4-80,

(f) if it is a fact that some of the old East Indian Railway grade Time Checkers of Rs 16-2-30 who made representation for making their grade equal to that of the Material Checkers were placed in the new co-ordinated grade of Rs 21-2-40 without being given any choice of election, and

(g) if it is a fact that the clerks were brought to the new co-ordinated grade of Rs 21-2-40 without their knowledge?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) to (e) The reply is in the affirmative

(f) The reply to the first part is in the affirmative. As regards the latter portion, the staff concerned could, had they so desired, have originally intimated their intention to continue on the old scale

(g) No

SINKING OF THE S S "CORMORANT"

214. *Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall: Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state

(a) if it is a fact that Oudh and Tahrut Railway's passenger steamer "Cormorant" which was on its way from Diglughat to Palea on the morning of the 12th September, 1944, sank while it was nearing the bank,

(b) if it is a fact that many people in confusion jumped into the water to save their lives and several lady passengers and children could not be traced,

(c) the total number of passengers on board the steamer, and its carrying capacity,

(d) what measures of rescue were adopted by the authorities on the steamer immediately and subsequently by the Railway authorities and the Government and

(e) if the Government have got an enquiry made into the accident, and what the report is as to (i) the cause of the disaster, (ii) the number of casualties, (iii) nature of the effort made to rescue the victims of the disaster, (iv) probable value of the loss, and (v) nature of recommendation for compensation to the losers of life and property due to the accident?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Yes

- (b) No
 (c) S S Cormorant had a carrying capacity of 1,000 and, at the time of the accident, was carrying about 600 passengers
 (d) and (e) I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply I have just given to Mr K C Neogy's Starred Question No 206. As regards part (v) of the question, claims for the loss of property due to the accident will be dealt with under the rules.

TRAVELLING COURTS ON RAILWAYS

215. *Mr. Kailash Bihari Lal: Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state

(a) if it is a fact that a Travelling Court has been introduced in the East Indian Railway,

(b) if such courts have been introduced in other Railways also, if so, in which of the Railways,

(c) since how long these Travelling Courts are functioning in Bihar, and how many cases have been detected and tried, and with what result, and

(d) the details of the system of holding a Travelling Court, whether every train contains a Travelling Court?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) The system of Travelling courts was first introduced on the Patna-Gaya section and later on extended to the Main line in Dinapore Division of the E I Railway.

(b) The reply to the first part is in the negative so far as the other State-managed railways are concerned. The second part does not arise.

(c) and (d) I have called for certain information and a reply will be placed on the table of the House in due course.

UNSTARRED QUESTION AND ANSWER

TOUR OF RAILWAYS BY ACCREDITED PRESS CORRESPONDENTS

47. Sardar Mangal Singa: Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state

(a) if it is a fact that the Railway Board recently organised a tour of Railways by the Accredited Press Correspondents,

(b) if it is a fact that the Railway Board did not consult (in the selection of Accredited Press Correspondents) the Department of Information and Broadcasting, if so, the reasons therefor,

(c) if it is a fact that the Press Association (not registered under any law of the country) was approached to select the Accredited Press Correspondents, if so, whether it is proposed to lay on the table the convention for approaching non-official, unregistered and non-recognised Associations, Unions and Federations,

(d) if it is a fact that invitation to the unregistered Press Association was not approved by the Central Government, if not, what the fact is, and who initiated negotiation with a non-statutory organisation,

(e) the amount of expenditure incurred on the said tour together with the nature of expenditure, and

(f) if it is a fact that the Central Government have always treated registered and unregistered Unions, Associations and Federations equally and that there is no differential attitude between registered and unregistered organisations, if not, the reasons therefor?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Yes

(b) The Department of Information and Broadcasting was consulted

(c) and (f) The Press Association was consulted in regard to the selection of correspondents. There is no rule or convention concerning such consultation and Government are free to consult any Associations or persons they may think fit.

(d) The answer to the first part is in the negative the second part does not arise.

(e) The only direct expenditure incurred was on catering and on the provision of road transport at the places visited. The total expenditure is not yet known as the relevant bills have not so far been received.

MOTION RE FOOD SITUATION—contd.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdul Rahnn) Further discussion on motion regarding food situation

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait (West Coast and Nilgus, Muhammadan)
Sir, at the outset I must admit that the food question is now certainly receiving greater and closer attention from the Government than it did some time ago. It is refreshing to learn from the Honourable Member that he himself realises, what we all know, that a great deal remains to be done, that a great amount of avoidable distress still exists. I hope that the Honourable Member and his department will be able to cope with it and will tackle all these evils in a very short time.

The feeling in the country that now exists with regard to this question is, I believe, correctly summarised in the amendment that I had the honour of placing before the House the other day. I commend that amendment to the acceptance of the House now.

Before dealing with that amendment I would like to dwell briefly on the state of things that exists in my part of the country, that is, Malabar. It is well known that Malabar suffered a great deal, due to want of availability of food grains in that part of the country. We suffered privations, hunger, pestilence and many other troubles which resulted in the loss of a great amount of life in that part of the country. The Government of India's eyes and the Provincial Government's eyes were opened to this state of affairs in Malabar only after we suffered all these days. But I had called the attention of the Government of India to the grave danger that was looming by a cut motion that I moved in 1943 in which I asked the Railway Member to arrange for the rushing of rice to my part of the country. Even earlier than that, I had had correspondence with the Members who were in charge of this matter in those days. But, as was described in a masterly survey yesterday by Mr. Griffiths, in the tragic period in which the Government was vacillating and doing nothing, we in our part of the country suffered and suffered gravously. Of course we did not have the same publicity that Bengal had and therefore we went on suffering. There was a time in the Government of India when food was nobody's concern. For a short time the Honourable Sri Ramaswami Mudaliar was in charge of it, but by the time he could get to grips with the situation in the country he was whisked away to England. I had then written to him a letter of grave warning as to what was impending in the country, but after his departure nobody appears to have taken any care of what was going on in the country, and the result is before the House. I do not want to go into past history and no good is going to come out of it.

So far as my part of the country is concerned, it is unfortunate, but it is a fact that we use no other food grain than rice in Malabar. Barley, jowar and bajra are things unknown to us. Therefore it is only rice that will save Malabar and rice was not forthcoming. There was a time when rice was available, but the difficulty was transport. But later on when the transport situation became a little easier, all the rice available was required for Bengal, with the result that we in the south-west of India went on suffering untold miseries. In those days, we tried our best to enlist the sympathies of the Central Government and the Provincial Government. We clamoured for rationing, but all our attempts were frustrated because of the fear in high places in the Government of India that if rationing is introduced in any part of the country the Japs will be encouraged by the thought that there was shortage of food anywhere in India. That was actually the reason advanced by our district magistrate, when one of the municipal councils, despairing of any Government action, started arrangements for introducing rationing in its area. We actually had a census taken and enumeration was taken, and then we had cards ready, but suddenly the district magistrate came down and prohibited this activity. That was long before the Government of India ever thought of introducing rationing. However, that phase is over and I am glad to see that we have turned the corner, but the present position as envisaged by the speech of the Honourable Member gives us great anxiety. When first rationing was

[Mr H A Sathar H Essak Sait]

introduced in the urban areas in Malabar, we were allotted one pound a head a day of rice. It was later reduced to three-fourths of a pound. Now, my Honourable friend says that it is still further to be reduced to 10 ounces of rice per head. When we had one pound of rice per head, it was declared even by Government experts that this quantity was not sufficient for manual workers. Now, we are going to have rationing all over the district even in the rural areas. This 10 ounces of rice that is going to be granted is going to affect the manual workers much more than the city dwellers and the brain workers, and Honourable Members can very well realise the meagreness of this quantity. Undernourishment in our country coupled with the weak constitution of the people has always encouraged the spread of epidemics. In 1942, in Malabar, the spread of epidemics was wholly due to under-nourishment. The Honourable Member's speech therefore causes great anxiety to us in Malabar. I would here request the Honourable Member to make it clear whether the allotment that now exists in urban cities, that is about $3\frac{3}{4}$ ths of a pound of rice is also to be reduced to 10 ounces or is this ten ounces to apply only to the rural parts? That is the first thing that I want him to make clear. The other is whether the ten ounces that he mentioned is to cover only rice or all other cereals are to be included in this ten ounces, because this is a very serious matter. If he is contemplating the allotment of other cereals, I would like him to make clear what are the other cereals that he thinks are workable in Malabar. I know the people of Malabar well. I come from that district and I have lived in that district. I can assure the House that no other cereal will be of any help in Malabar.

Within the short time at my disposal, I have got one or two matters to bring to the notice of the Honourable Member with reference to Malabar. The only other food that our people know of, and especially the poorer section, is *tapioca*. In the difficult days of 1942, we tried our best to stop its manufacture into starch. Because starch was required by the mill owners of Ahmedabad and Bombay and they were prepared to pay any price for it, much of this *tapioca* was exported in the form of starch. We ended ourselves hoarse to stop its export but our District Magistrate will not move. Then, later on, when matters became very acute, the export of starch was prohibited. Now I find that there is again an idea of allowing the manufacture of starch and its export. I request my Honourable friend to put his foot down and tell the Provincial Government that on no account should this food stuff be allowed to be turned into use for any industrial purpose.

Then, Sir, the greatest difficulty is, and I agree with the Honourable Member, that rice is not available. He has made an appeal and I hope that that appeal will have a great deal of effect. He has appealed to the wheat eating parts of the country to spare all their rice for such parts of the country as cannot exist on anything but rice. I think this appeal alone is not enough. He has to make a survey and see how much of rice can be spared from those provinces which are used to wheat eating and he must compulsorily take away that rice for the people of the South. In that way alone can this question be solved to some extent.

Then, Sir, he is in the habit of making spasmodic allotments whenever a crisis occurs in our districts. This will not do. He has to set up a definite policy and let us know how much of rice we can expect monthly and that allotment, whatever it is, must reach us in that month. As was pointed out by one of my friends there, the allotment for August is now reaching Malabar and this upsets all the calculations with the result that rations are further and further reduced.

I will now deal briefly with one or two general questions and the question of black markets. I agree with my friend Mr Griffiths that in this country there is still want of strong virile public opinion against the black market. I hope, Sir, I will not be misunderstood in any part of the House when I say that a great deal of this want of public opinion is due to the indifference of the newspapers. They certainly can help in creating this sort of public opinion. The Indian Press today is controlled to a great extent by the Congress Party. I hope my friends on my right will not think that I am trying to make a political

point out of it. (An Honourable Member "That is not correct") I am sorry I used the word "controlled". It may not be controlled. It is in sympathy with the Congress Party and the Congress Party today hold such a position that they can direct the Press in whatever way they like. (An Honourable Member "This is again wrong. I wish we could") That is right but the point is this: If the Congress Party will make up its mind to give a strong lead in this matter I am sure that much can be done in this respect and I hope that something will be done. When there is a black marketer, he has to be hounded out of society and if that is to be done, a strong public opinion has to be created and the creation of public opinion is surely in the hands of the Press. That is why I made that point. I do not think that the Press is sufficiently strong on the subject of black marketing. I do not know why, but it is true that our public workers also are not very strong on this subject. I could quote several instances where black marketers have been caught and handed and yet some man of influence has gone out of his way to recommend to the authorities concerned that the man should be left free or let off lightly for some extraneous consideration. It may be that the man is rich or useful to some party and so on. This has got to be stopped. That is my feeling and I hope my friends of the Congress will not take my remarks amiss.

One more point. There is very little co-ordination between the departments of the Government of India concerned in this question of food. For instance there is my friend the Food Member, my friend Mr. Tyson in charge of Education, Health and Lands and there is my friend of the Planning Department and there is also the War Transport Member and I say that there is very little co-ordination between these various departments. Mr. Tyson is going on in his old merry way, doing things independently in his own way. The other day he brought up a Bill without reference to the Food Department.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdul Halim): Your time is up.

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait: So, I say there should be greater co-ordination between the various departments.

Mr. J. D. Tyson (Secretary, Department of Education, Health and Lands): Sir, Rising first after the Honourable the Food Member spoke, my Honourable friend Professor Ranga said: "We have heard from time to time about more land being brought under cultivation, but how much more food has been produced?" I welcome that question and that is what I propose, in the time at my disposal this morning, to tell the House. In doing so I shall answer my Honourable friend Sir Abdul Halim (Ghuznavi) also, who said that "Grow More Food" is a complete failure. Mr. Nauman, who said that "Grow More Food" has received only lip sympathy and Government have made no effort to give financial aid to the cultivators or to let them have seed", Mr. Hegde who said that "Grow More Food has 'achieved nothing'", Mr. Gupta who said that "Grow More Food was 'bunkum'", and even my Honourable friend and erstwhile colleague Mr. Griffiths, who was nearer the truth when he said that it has "achieved something" but who finished by daunting it with pretty faint praise. I will bombard the House with figures as little as I can, but I must give some.

On the basis of the average of the three pre-war years, which I take deliberately because the year immediately preceding the inauguration of the "Grow More Food" campaign was a year below the average and I do not want to make any unfair claims,—in the immediate pre-war period the average acreage under rice in India was 73.8 million acres, or practically 74 million acres. After one year of "Grow More Food" the area under rice was 75 million acres. Last year, the area under rice was practically 80 million acres, that is, 6½ million acres over the immediately pre-war average of 73.8 million acres. And though the first rice forecast is not yet published I am happy to be in a position to inform the House that the indications at the moment are very strongly that the area under rice this year will be fully maintained, if not perhaps a little increased. I do not say the yield will be the same as last year's bumper crop, but the area is going to be no less.

Sir Gowdasjee Jehangir (Bombay City Non-Muhammadan Urban): How much more rice has been produced?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I am coming to that.

[Mr. J. D. Tyson:]

Now, take the case of wheat. The area under wheat in the three years' average before the war was 34.7 million acres. We have not been able to increase the area under wheat.

The next figure that I will give the House is the total area under all foodgrains. The total acreage under all foodgrains in the three years before the war was 195 million acres. After one year of Grow More Food the figure was 204.5 million acres and last year it was 206.8 million acres. Thus there is an increase of six per cent. of land under cultivation.

Now, I come to production.

Mr. E. L. C. Gwilt (Bombay European): May I ask the Honourable Member what is the increase in population for a comparable period?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I am not responsible for the increase of population. I have got very little time and I cannot give way.

Now, Sir, I come to the production of foodgrains. The production of rice in the three years before the war was 26½ million tons. In the first year of the Grow More Food campaign it was 24.8 million tons. Now, I would like the House to notice that though the area had increased by over a million acres, the crop actually decreased owing to natural calamities and the ravages in Bengal, of a pest called *Helmintho sporium* last year, with still greater acreage and with a bounteous harvest, the crop was 30.6 million tons. So, from 26½ million tons, the pre-war average, it went up to 30.6 million tons. This is the highest on record. It is 4 million tons over the production of the pre-war period and it is twice the figure we used to import from Burma. We got an increased crop of wheat in the first year of Grow More Food but we did not get such a large crop last year,—it was below the pre-war average. Now, for all foodgrains the pre-war average was 55½ million tons. After one year of Grow More Food it was 57½ million tons and last year it was practically 61 million tons, an increase of 5½ million tons over the pre-war period.

Now, my point in mentioning these figures—and this is my answer to Mr. Gwilt—is not that this is enough; this is only a beginning. I could give the House, if I had time, many reasons why in the existing circumstances we are worse off now in India with this increased production than we were in the pre-war period and why we still want imports from outside. But what I am concerned with at the moment is to meet the suggestion that Grow More Food has "achieved nothing."

Now, Sir, I know that I will be told that my statistics are not to be relied upon. But we must take them as they are and we are trying to improve them. Nearly all the provinces have got on hand schemes for improving their statistics. We had a very interesting sampling test on mathematically approved lines in the Punjab and the United Provinces this last summer. I have not seen the U. P. results but certainly as regards the Punjab it proved conclusively the accuracy, this year at all events, of the provincial figures of yield.

Mr. Manu Subedar (Indian Merchants' Chamber and Bureau Indian Commerce): Have the Provinces accepted these figures?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I am sorry I cannot give way because the time at my disposal is very short.

Sir, when I was a Sub-divisional Officer—that is a long time ago—we used to collect income-tax for the Government of India in the provinces. One day I was unporting enough to compare the returns put in under income-tax with the returns put in by the same gentlemen in applying for gun and revolver licences and I was shocked, but not altogether surprised, to find that the property for the protection of which they wanted the use of a revolver or a gun was considerably greater than the property which was mentioned in the income-tax returns. Applying the same test here,—if it is suggested that in order to placate my own Honourable Chief here the provinces are inclined to "cook" their figures and show a bigger area under crops or a bigger off-take than really they have achieved, they would be on a very dangerous ground for immediately they would be jumped upon by my Honourable friend, the Food Member, for a bigger quota to his "basic plan." There is no reason, therefore, why we should

suspect that the figures have been 'cooked' As I said, our statistics are improving. In some parts they are reasonably good and they will be better soon even in permanently settled areas like Bengal.

It may also be said that the bumper crop of 1943-44 was an accident and a gift of Providence. A gift of Providence it certainly was, but it was no accident. The high prices obtaining for rice, especially in Bengal, had led the cultivators to be willing to increase cultivation under rice and that applies, I suppose, all over India. Certainly as regards Bengal, that crop had to be sown at the beginning of the famine and we were told that the cultivators had under the influence of high prices sold their paddy and even their paddy seed with the result that although there was the willingness to sow on a very great scale, there was no seed. The Bengal Government very largely financed the distribution of seed for the *hus* crop, but they asked us to help them in financing the distribution of the seed for the *aman* crop and we did this to the tune of 4½ lakhs of rupees in the shape of grants and Rs. 33½ lakhs in the shape of loans to Bengal alone. For that particular crop all over India, we gave 8½ lakhs grants and 50 lakhs loans for the distribution of seeds, and that is, by the way, my answer to Mr. Muhammad Nauman, who I regret to see is not in the House at present. We also gave large sums for reclaiming waste lands in Orissa and Bombay, for irrigation of various kinds, chiefly for rice, in Assam and Bihar the U. P. and the C. P. It was therefore no accident that there was a good harvest that year, though I agree that without a bounteous monsoon, much of our help would have gone for nothing. That is one of our difficulties. It is one that can only be overcome by long-term extension of irrigation. But I venture to say that even if monsoon is patchy and the return per acre for the whole of India is poor, it is better to have an eight anna crop off 80 million acres than off 70 millions. So we go on trying to increase the area under foodgrains. During the current year we are spending even more in helping to distribute seed. We have undertaken a considerable liability,—I have no time to give the figures,—to help the Provinces in the matter of irrigation,—excavating tanks, re-excavating tanks and digging wells. These are particularly long-term—I may say they are permanent—improvements and they should mean a permanent addition in normal years to our food supply. Over and above that, the power-operated schemes for irrigation associated with the name of Sir William Stamps are just beginning to take effect with the *rabi* crop that is being sown now and there will be much more effect next year.

There has been—rightly, if I may say so,—considerable reference in this debate to 'protective foods' and we also have had them in mind right from the beginning of the campaign. We had to go for first things first, and the first thing that was brought home to us very forcibly was the shortage of cereals, especially of rice. But we have had this matter of vegetables in the forefront of our campaign right through. Of course there are two kinds of vegetables, there is the country vegetable, and the position as regards country vegetables has not, I think, been difficult. We have had no complaints regarding them and we have left the matter to the Provincial Governments. The seeds for country vegetables are produced locally, and it is not much good trying to grow in Bengal the kind of country vegetables that grow in the Punjab. What I want to speak about, however, is the European type of vegetables which are consumed by people of all races in the cities and by the armed forces. Now, Sir, the supply of seed for these was very largely imported from abroad right up to 1941. We have been faced simultaneously with the cutting off of these supplies and with the increase owing to the war in our ordinary urban population and by the influx—and I do not hesitate to say that at the time it came, it was a very welcome influx—of armed forces from overseas. In 1942 we started organising vegetable production by Provincial Governments to take up the demand of the armed forces for fresh vegetables and the demand of the Supply Department for de-hydration. This was to be separate production by an agency quite different from those which ordinarily supply the towns, the idea being to take over the supply to the army to a great extent which would mean that the existing supplies should continue to be available in the towns. Bombay led the

[Mr J. D. Tyson:] way in 1941-42 Madras, Bihar and the U. P. followed. Now most of the Provinces are growing vegetables separately for the army. We have been told that the price of vegetables in Calcutta has gone very high. Calcutta has had no relief from this scheme because unfortunately the Bengal Government did not get their vegetable scheme going and they could not take up the potato scheme for which we offered them assistance. But Bengal is trying again, and it can succeed in growing vegetables for the army, that will *pro tanto* assist the position in Calcutta. Some Provinces are now growing vegetables under similar arrangements for the civil population, and, again, Bombay is leading the way. The army themselves are growing vegetables and other protective foods to an ever greater extent. Reference was made to the vegetable seed position by my Honourable friend Mr Griffiths yesterday. Now, Sir, when outside supplies failed, we had to organise an almost entirely new industry, and mainly through the Agricultural Departments of Kashmir, State and of Baluchistan we got a large acreage put under vegetables for seed production. I am free to confess that there were difficulties of supply in the first year. The growers up there were mainly private growers and they dealt to a great extent direct with seedsmen down here and a large number of seedsmen were brought out by the loss of their foreign sources of supply. They did not get a sufficient supply and there was also a certain amount of adulteration of seeds and high prices were charged. Some seedsmen did not get seeds at all. In the upshot, I am not sure whether there was actual over-all shortage, but undoubtedly there was some difficulty in getting hold of seeds in some areas. That is a point, which, in the language current at the moment I must "concede" to my Honourable friend Mr Griffiths. This year, we have tightened up the whole thing, seeds are collected in bulk in bonded warehouses in Baluchistan and Kashmir and they are issued from there only wholesale to seedsmen and to Directors of Agriculture and to the army, after germination tests, and they are issued at fixed prices. There is no shortage of seeds this year. In fact of some vegetables we have got a surplus of seeds, including cabbages, which I understood yesterday were particularly the food of Americans!

I have to make some short reference to medical supplies.

Mr. K. C. Neogy (Dacca Division Non-Muhammadan Rural) What about milk supply?

Mr J. D. Tyson: I hope I have said enough to show that we have not failed to achieve something in our Grow More Food campaign and I hope that when my Honourable friend Mr Gupta sees the transcript of his speech in which he has described it as "bunkum," he will eat it!

I have very little time left to deal with other subjects. There has been, naturally enough, reference to the epidemic situation. I should like briefly to refer to that as it is a matter which has been causing grave concern in this House. Since the last Session, the epidemic position in Bengal which was then still causing us grave anxiety has shown progressive improvement. The cholera mortality which in January was 3,000 a week had declined to 700 a week in April and to 286 and 232 in the first two weeks of October. The mortality is now considerably below average. Since April when the number of deaths from smallpox was over 2,000 a week there has been a steady improvement but the numbers though low are still rather higher than the normal. What I really want to say here is this, and I hope the House will be interested to hear it, that the Bengal Government have been going on with their campaign against these two diseases and they have been carrying out inoculations on a vast scale. In one year, since November 1943, the cholera inoculations in Bengal have totalled 18 millions, vaccinations totalled 32 millions. That is a colossal piece of work. Thirteen thousand tube wells have been renovated or new ones have been sunk. I need hardly stress the importance of that from the cholera point of view. Twenty thousand beds have been opened in 572 emergency hospitals. In 1943-44 the malaria situation in Bengal was bad and it is of course bad this year, because unfortunately in malaria one bad year tends to lead to another bad year. The Bengal Government have received for dealing with the malaria

situation 100,000 lbs of quinine and febrifuge and 179,000 tablets of quinine substitute. The two together afford about 21 million treatments.

In Bihar,—and I think within the time left to me I shall have to finish with Bihar,—the last six months have seen a very severe epidemic of cholera,—in North Bihar. It began to develop in April and May, it reached its peak in June with over six thousand deaths in one week. Since then the figures have shown a considerable improvement and for the last two weeks of October they are 597 and 744. But since the cholera mortality began to decline, malaria has given cause for anxiety there. Now the military medical authorities have come to the help of the Provincial Government. They have supplied 22 military medical officers for emergency duties and they have released an I M S officer with public health experience to be Additional Director of Public Health for North Bihar. The Bihar Government have appointed an Additional Commissioner for relief work in the Tirhut Division. They have got adequate supplies of vaccines and anti-malaria drugs, 28 million tablets of quinine substitutes have been supplied to them, they have made arrangements for the distribution of anti-malaria drugs through malaria centres, district dispensaries, village headmen and other village agencies. Voluntary relief organisations are being organised and allotted compact areas and are being supplied with anti-malaria drugs free. The great difficulty that the Bihar Government are having is to get the additional medical staff which they require.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdul Rahim) The Honourable Member's time is up.

Mr. J. D. Tyson: Then, Sir, I am afraid that is all that I can say.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum (North-West Frontier Province General) Sir, I wanted to deal with the 'Grow More Food' campaign in a later part of my speech but having listened to the remarks which fell from the last speaker I am inclined to take that matter up first. He gave us some figures and thereby tried to refute the allegation that the 'Grow More Food' campaign had fallen flat and the allegation made from this side of the House is groundless. But his own figures which I am going to quote—and which have been supplied to me just now by my Honourable friend Prof. Ranga, will show that the popular belief stands corroborated by official figures. There has been a lot of propaganda in this country in favour of the 'Grow More Food' campaign and the Honourable Member told us that the quantity of rice produced has gone up from 26½ million tons to 80.6 million tons. If you look at the official figures of production of rice you will find that in the year 30-31 when a thing like the 'Grow More Food' campaign was unheard of, the production of rice in India was more than 82 million tons, and right up to 1934-35 it was something like 80 million tons. This is from the *Statistical Abstract for British India*.

Mr. J. D. Tyson: Is that production only or import as well?

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: The Honourable Member did not give way when I interrupted, my time is also limited.

Then as far as area is concerned, we are told that the area under rice has gone up to 80 million acres. Now with regard to the area under crops and yield of British India,—obviously it could not have included imports,—I quote from the *Agricultural Statistics of India*.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall (Member for Railways and War Transport) Does that include Burma which was then a part of India?

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: That is not mentioned here. 'In India',—that is what is stated. But even then it would not make very much difference.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: It would make a tremendous difference.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Even apart from that I have other figures which will show that the area under foodgrains has not increased very much even leaving Burma out of consideration. In the year 1937-38 the area under food crops was something like 15 crores and 43 lakhs of acres, and in 1942-43 it had only risen to 16 crores and 2 lakhs of acres, which shows that the progress made is very poor indeed.

[Mr. Abdul Qaiyum]

However, leaving this 'Grow More Food' campaign for the time being, the point made by Government against criticisms from this side of the House is that most of the criticism from this side is not based on facts and figures and that we have not got the wonderful secretariat which Government have at their disposal. Assuming for the sake of argument that this charge is true, that the Government of India have got machinery at their disposal from which they could have collected information about the state of things in India as regards food. They could have easily found out that long before the war India was not self-sufficient in the matter of food, and any one who had seen the countryside and the state of physique of the people would have easily found out that there were millions of people in this country who were not getting one square meal a day. With all these facts and figures at their disposal it is really surprising that this wonderful Government of India had no plan and no policy when the war began. If they had no facts and figures and had been groping in the dark one could have excused them. But they know very well that in the matter of food, India was not self-sufficient. In spite of all this there was no policy, and when they came to have some kind of policy, that policy has been very erratic and halting,—a policy which has been changed from time to time, a policy which has not been governed by any principles, a policy which has been very inconsistent and has caused a tremendous amount of loss to the people of this country. When this country was overtaken by a terrible calamity like the Bengal famine, when lakhs and lakhs of our countrymen were dead, and when millions are even now going about as victims of the mal-nutrition and bad food which, as press reports clearly indicate, has resulted in widespread epidemics throughout the length and breadth of this country,—epidemics like malaria, cholera, dysentery, etc., which are the result of the bad food supplied to the people,—it was after all these terrible things had happened that this Government of India awoke to the realities of the situation and began fumbling round for some sort of plan to be put into execution.

My Honourable friend Mr. Griffiths from the European Benches made a very good speech yesterday and it seems he has taken a lot of trouble to study the subject. I listened to his speech with great attention. One remark that he made was that the conscience of the people of this country had not been roused sufficiently and that there was no active public opinion in this country to bring under control all such dreadful things like black markets, corruption and other things which go with the administration of food control in this country. I will frankly concede that to some extent our people can be blamed for the absence of a proper and sufficiently strong public opinion in this country. But at the same time it cannot be denied that the Government of India, constituted as it is in this country, have got absolutely no conscience and utterly lack the public support without which no Government can function in any part of the civilised world. Mr. Griffiths was giving us the analogy of how things had been worked out in Great Britain, how much more effective and efficient was the machinery that was set up in that country. One of the main reasons for the difference in the condition of things in Great Britain and in India is that there they have a Government which represents the will of the people and here the same Great Britain has forcibly thrust upon us a Government every act of which is contrary to the well-known wishes of the people of this country. Imagine, Sir, a Government in England during war time which had shut up all the members of the present British Cabinet and the Leaders of various political parties. What would be the state of mind and the state of public conscience in England as regards any measures which such Government wished to put into execution? This makes all the difference, and it is for this reason that there is no public opinion behind the acts of the Government of India, and therefore the measures which they have in preparation for dealing with the problem of food have not succeeded sufficiently enough.

The Honourable the Food Member was talking of the Basic Plan—some wonderful plan which the Government have evolved—which will bring all our troubles under control. I tried to read that Basic Plan in the Food Grains

Policy Committee Report. The Basic Plan is very modest. It comes to this: They have taken the full production of foodgrains in India for a period of five years before the war, they have added to it the imports into this country and subtracted from it the exports from this country, and they have satisfied themselves that that amount of foodgrains was sufficient for feeding the population in India.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava (Food Member) That is not the Basic Plan.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: That is the Basic Plan as laid down in the Foodgrains Policy Committee Report. This will not do. Even with the production and the imports which were coming in before the war, it is a well known fact that our people were not being fed sufficiently enough and this sort of Basic Plan therefore will not do. Bolder and far-reaching measures will have to be advocated. You will have to go to the source of things—the actual production of foodstuffs in this country. You will have to set up some sort of a planning committee—call it a planning committee or by any other name, as you like—which will decide what class of foodstuffs should be produced in this country taken as a whole, what should be the area under each particular crop, and then you will have to do something much more than the Government of India has been doing in the past.

The Honourable Member said in his speech that they were trying to suppress black markets. I think that by their refusal to buy up all the available surplus foodgrains in this country, the Government of India have aided and abetted the establishment of black markets. After all how do these black markets come into existence? People prefer to sell their foodgrains to certain dealers—who indulge in these malpractices, in preference to public bodies. If some such measures could be devised whereby the State will take all the available surplus—and that can be done, it cannot be said that such a thing is impossible, it can be done very easily—believe me it will end all our troubles. We have two kinds of producers in this country. We have got small farmers with small families to look after, and big landlords with a surplus. The policy should be such that the small farmers' requirements should be fixed and as much food as is necessary for the requirements of his family should be entirely left to him. But we have got large producers—big landlords—who keep back much more than they really require. And what do they do with it? These are the people who are the victims of and succumb to the temptations of the black markets. The State can easily fix a reasonable and legitimate price which will give them a fair return for the produce of their lands, and at the same time some sort of law should be devised whereby all this surplus should be taken over direct by the State without the intervention of these horrible middlemen who have come into existence as a result of the present system of control which has been set up by the Government of India. These are the people who are dealing in what I should call the black market and the white market. Simultaneously they sell to people who have got ration cards, and at the same time these are the very people who, under the eyes of the Government officials, are indulging in malpractices known as the black market. Why don't you stop supplies so that these people will not have anything to sell. Make it impossible for big landlords and people with surplus to sell to any one but the State. This is one of the methods whereby you can entirely eliminate black markets.

There is one thing more. In view of the tremendous rise in the price of necessities of life which the poor agriculturist has to purchase, for instance cloth and other necessities of life, the Government cannot be blind to the fact that he has to pay much more for these things, and in fixing the price for foodstuffs it should be seen that a reasonable amount should be paid which will cover the cost of his production and at the same time leave him with a reasonable margin of profit.

Now, Sir, I want to say a few words about the administration of the Food Control in this country. Anyone who has seen the Food Control at work in

[Mr Abdul Qayum] this country will realize—I am not trying to score a point against the Government—that there is a lot of corruption going on in this department. In the matter of Food Control, I think the Government and the public can very well co-operate in stamping out corruption. But I do not approve of the attitude of the Government of India in this matter. When any criticism is levelled against them and it is pointed out that a lot of corruption is rampant in this department, they try to dismiss it by a blank denial that anything of the kind exists and that the criticism is irresponsible. First of all, you must be very careful in the selection of your staff, no favouritism should be allowed. It is only when incompetent people are taken in the establishment dealing with Food Control, people who do not know even A, B, C of work, that it leads to corruption and incompetence. At the same time, Sir, I think it is not beyond the competence of the Government of India to set up a special Crimes Investigation Department to track down all those officials of the Food Control Department who are suspected or are well known to be corrupt. A special department should be set up in the interest of public good and in the interest of a cleaner and more efficient Food Control in this country whereby all such persons can be tracked down. And while we have this middlemen system still in existence, it will also be seen that the people who corrupt these officials are generally these middlemen who are favoured with permits to sell stuff to the poor people. These middlemen are the people who try to corrupt these officials because they are the people who stand to gain. This Crimes Investigation Department will aim at tracking down these middlemen as well as the corrupt officials and will bring about the desired reform which I think the Government and the people both desire to see brought about in this country.

Now, Sir, a few words more about the Grow More Food campaign. I have got some figures which I have taken from a book I was studying only last night. I will read out:

"In the year 1937-38, 154 million acres were under food crops in this country and in the year 1942-43, for which latest figures are available, only 160 million acres were under food crops."

That shows that not more than 6 or 7 million acres more have been brought under food crops in this country. It is obvious that the drive under the Grow More Food campaign has not brought about the desired result. I would like the Honourable Member for Food to tell us whether there are any cultivable State lands in India which have been brought under the Grow More Food campaign, and whether he would give us some facts and figures,—and it will not be impossible for him to do so—in regard to the total area of cultivable State lands and what percentage of this has been brought under crops as a result of the Grow More Food campaign?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) The Honourable Member has got one minute more.

Mr. Abdul Qayum: I am finishing, Sir. There are other matters like the proper supply of seed, the proper supply of improved agricultural implements, the setting up of machinery for manufacturing manures and other things with regard to which the agriculturists experience great difficulties. I will end up by saying that my criticism is not with a view to run down the Government of India, but to bring it to their notice that there is a lot of corruption and that the system can be improved a lot if only the Government will turn their proper attention to it. Sir, I support the amendment.

Mr. G. P. Lawson (Bengal European) Mr President, Sir: I would like to join my friend, Mr Essak Sait, in paying a tribute to the Government for their energy in tackling this matter and also, I may say so, for the regularity

with which they bring this matter before this House for debate.
12 Noon I do not think anybody can complain that food matters have been insufficiently debated in this Honourable House, and I congratulate the Honourable Member on his courage and his wish to share his troubles and his joys with us.

The Honourable the Food Member made four claims, as far as I understood him, when he spoke the other day. He said that his all-India food policy had been accepted by the provinces, that prices had been controlled, that Government stocks had been established to prevent local shortages, and confidence had generally been restored. Now, Sir, I think, as far as in him lies, and with the constitutional and administrative difficulties that he has to face, that that claim is largely justified. But I must point out that he is very largely still in the hands of provinces and that provincial administration and provincial policies still very largely control the effectiveness of his actions.

May I point out, Sir, to begin with, that the figure that the Honourable the foodgrains can be reduced very considerably if provinces generally decide upon. Secretary for Education, Health and Lands have given us of 60 million tons of a motto of "safety first" and there is no doubt in my mind whatever that all provinces without exception are adopting a policy of "safety first" and, indeed, who is to blame them, the safety of their provinces is their main concern. But if they wish to provide a margin of safety of say 10 per cent—and I apply this not only merely to the provincial administration but to every district and every person within a province—no less than 6 million tons of foodgrains can be removed from circulation. Where then, Sir, is the increase that the Grow More Food campaign has produced? It is already cancelled out by the margin of the safety that these provinces may demand. Again, Sir, what authority has the Honourable the Food Member, who is responsible for the distribution of food and all the details that occur in this great problem, to tell the provinces what they are to grow, where they are to grow it and so on. He has, in fact, no authority at all and the provinces can grow what they like, where they like and how they like. So, Sir, I think it is fair to say that the criticism which is levelled at the Department of Food is largely levelled on provincial administrations and here, Sir, I will mention particularly the question of quality. We in deficit provinces know perfectly well that we are getting bad quality and the province sending this stuff to us takes no responsibility and really does nothing to see that we get something better than what Mr Neogy yesterday described as "pebbles". Now, Sir, I am a little surprised that in the various inter-provincial meetings which have taken place this problem has not been more adequately dealt with. Surely it is possible to tie the quality to someone. In normal times we know very well that ordinary business practice makes it inadvisable for a dealer to sell somebody else bad quality. The "somebody else" won't accept it and when it goes to arbitration he is liable to lose very much more money than he has gained by adulterating his supplies. But when you are faced with a situation in which the reply is 'you can take that or nothing', a very difficult situation arises, and I will go to this length, Sir, and say that as long as this state of things exists it will be impossible to prevent the adulteration which is undoubtedly occurring in the Government rationing shops. A Government rationing shop-keeper will sell bad quality and he will say "this is the stuff I received" and there will be no one to say him, nay. So Sir, my advice to the Government of India is this: that they tie the quality of these supplies to someone. The trade practices in different parts of India differ and the guarantee of other method may be useful in some parts but not in others. But I would advise the Honourable the Food Member with all respect to apply this policy of tying the quality of the grain supplied to somebody, so that there may be recourse either by arbitration or other means to people who supply bad quality.

Now, Sir, the prices of foodgrains in India today are high. They are high in comparison with other prices, there may be many who will oppose a reduction because of the effect of such reduction on the countryside. But the duty of Government in this respect is to examine the general cost of living and to fix prices at a level which they consider fair and which will form a suitable level and a universal level. Sir, at the moment there are various prices ruling all over India for foodgrains and the result is that there is juggling between provinces, between districts and so on, where the prices vary. If in a certain district your price for rice is Rs 12 and in another district it is Rs 14 a man will

[Mr C. P. Lawson]

soon shift his rice somehow into the part of the country where he gets a better price and your arrangements are upset. I think that as soon as it can be done universal prices must be established all over the country and when that happy state of affairs is arrived at, I would strongly advise Government to make those prices fixed for a number of years so that the cultivators may know with a degree of certainty what they are going to get for their crops in time to come. Then when any measure of uncertainty is removed we can go ahead with measures for improvement and for the improving of yields, etc., about which I shall speak a little later.

There is another aspect of this price question which I must mention and that is what I would describe as a transfer of inflation. I do not quite know what the complete remedy is, because as long as partial control exists in this country there will always be a measure of inflation thrown on to articles which are not controlled and that, Sir, is happening to a very large extent in the province from which I come. As an example, I would quote the case of an uncontrolled article, namely meat. We have started in Calcutta two meatless days a week and what was the effect? Immediately the burden of demand was thrown on to fish and fish prices jumped by Rs. 2 to Rs. 3 a seer almost at once. The jump was totally unjustified but there was no control over fish and the meat had been removed from the market. Even the coarse fish like *Rohu* and *Katla* jumped Rs. 2 to Rs. 3 a seer. Now, Sir, that has occurred practically in every article of food that is not controlled. Milk, eggs, vegetables, fish, etc., have all gone up and they have practically gone outside the scope of the purse of even the middle classes. The only possible remedy for this, and it is an inadequate remedy, is stricter price control and I am in entire sympathy with those who have to administer this problem when they tell me that strict price control drives articles underground. I know it is true and, to a large extent, I know it will be hitting a brick wall. Until we can enlarge the rationing field, and I am rather doubtful whether that field can be much enlarged at present (certainly in the case of perishable articles), until we can enlarge the rationing field and until we can control supplies more adequately, we must concentrate on administration and upon enforcement. I know that it will bring with it a lot of ancillary troubles. I know that there will be a certain amount of bribery here and there but I still maintain that a strong public opinion and, with men, say in the Legislatures, banding together to make certain that malpractices are brought to light and are punished, something more could be done and, apart from anything else, it seems to me to be the only possible solution.

I would like to say a word, Sir, about public health, which has loomed large in this debate. I know from personal experience that public health is declining. Our own office staffs, of which we keep a careful record, are definitely more frequently absent and they are getting ill very easily. That, Sir, I think, is undoubtedly due to the absence of those foods, which the Honourable the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands called 'protective'. They are not getting eggs, they are not getting vegetables and I was surprised to find how much the potatoe has become a normal item of diet. All these things are now practically unobtainable and there is no question in my mind that the health of the people is declining as a result. I think that this matter of non-cereal foods demands the Government's most urgent attention, because if attention is not soon given to it there will be a definite and serious decline in the health of the people.

I was very glad the other day to hear from the Secretary of the Education, Health and Lands Department that over the question of rice there was a proposal to go more for production than increase in acreage. I know that it is very easily and frequently stated by critics of the Government that there are 150 million acres of cultivable waste in this country. That, Sir, is a figure which is totally misleading. Most of the cultivable waste in this country is not cultivable land at all and much of the rest depends on the communications that can be established. There is no use telling a cultivator to go and culti-

vate a piece of land that has no roads, no railways and no water. Therefore, Sir, we must undoubtedly go as far as we can for an increase in yield per acre and there is no earthly reason why that yield per acre should not be increased. I have little faith in statistics, particularly in Indian statistics, but I have seen it stated that the yield of rice per acre in China is double that in India and in Japan it is three times. I know, equally well, from personal experience that there are parts of India, which produce rice yields per acre as large as any in the world. Unfortunately there are other parts which bring down the average with a bump and the trouble is mainly seed. As the Honourable the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands Department stated the other day only about 6 per cent of improved seeds is used in rice cultivation in this country and I am glad to hear from him that an effort is to be made to increase that.

• -Sir, I want to point out at this stage that while the position as regards rice has improved very considerably, I do not regard the future with anything like complacency. I think, to a large extent, the troubles of the Honourable the Food Member are still to come and let me tell him why I think so. In the first place, to provide for the increase in the population of this country this country has got to produce every year half a million tons more of food grains. The calculation is open to argument but I think it may be even more than that. Now, Sir, the Government is working to meet this increasing demand. They are bringing in imports but, if I may say so, they are working "blind". They do not know what the production of the country is. Their information regarding the stocks that exist is largely coloured by the provincial policies and as regards consumption in the country they have no information at all. The Government at the moment do not know what the people are eating. In the United Provinces, where in the winter months the cultivator ate pulses, millets very largely, I now understand that he is eating wheat and I am very glad that that is so, because it is a better food and better for his health. But how will this affect the wheat stocks that the Honourable the Food Member thinks he has?

And let me add another warning regarding prices. Unless these prices are stabilised reasonably soon, you are going to be in very great difficulties. There are, I believe, one hundred thousand tons of gram found in excess in this country now and if there is a drop of Rs. 2 a maund on that supply of gram someone is going to drop half a crore of rupees. It may be the Government, it may be the stockists, but somebody is going to have to pay and in this country there must be millions and millions of tons of stocks held in various places. Let the price go down, apply a drop of one or two rupees a maund to these various stocks that are held, I wonder how many of the small mofussil banks and co-operative societies will survive. This is going to be a matter which the Government will have to watch extremely carefully and the sooner they stabilise these prices, believe me, Sir, the happier I shall be. That brings me to the end of my time and I must stop.

Sir Gowasjee Jehangir Mr President, we have heard from every Member on the Opposition Benches a tale of woe, and I am inclined to believe with my friend Mr Lawson that that tale should have been voiced in the provinces more than in this Honourable House. A great deal of the administration of the policy of food control lies with the provinces, and unless this agitation which we rightly hear in this House is carried more effectively into the provinces, I am afraid the Honourable Food Member will not be of much avail to us from the Centre.

There are only two or three issues to which I desire to draw your attention. The first issue is the very important one of distribution which affects my province. There are three or four notoriously deficit provinces in India that are said to be Travancore, Cochin, Bombay and Malabar. Government have laid down a policy whereby in their opinion one pound a day per head or 3½ seers per week, is the minimum quantity that should be rationed for an adult. There are many parts of my province which do not get that minimum. The whole of Cochin and Travancore perhaps do not get that minimum. Malabar

[**Sir Cowasjee Jehangir**] or parts of Malabar may be in the same category; but Mr. President, there are provinces in India where the individual citizen is getting much more than that minimum. Is it because those provinces will not come into line with the Government of India's policy, or is there some other reason? Will the provinces who have this surplus and who are giving out much more per individual than the deficit provinces, see reason? Can they be tempted—I will not say forced, but tempted—to come to a compromise with those provinces which are having less than the minimum—and by no means is that minimum liberal, it is a real minimum to keep body and soul together? Will these provinces be made to understand that India as a whole has to live and that if some provinces today are much worse off, a time may come when they themselves may be worse off in other directions? They want cloth; they demand that the Government of India should give them not only quantity but quality. We supply that. The Government of India makes us supply that and we do so.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee (Calcutta Suburbs Non-Muhammadan Urban) We did not get much of cloth in Bengal.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: I really do not understand that. There is no reason why Bengal should not get sufficient quantities of standard cloth. I am not going to be diverted into that issue just now, but I may say that if you do not get standard cloth in sufficient quantities it is up to you to agitate to get it. Those provinces who do not make cloth, want it and it is given to them. That is only one example. In return I do believe they could be made to understand that all peoples in India should be given an equal quantity of food.

Now, I will come to the very encouraging figures given to us by my Honourable friend, Mr. Tyson. I am not by any means elated with those figures, for let me frankly tell him that I do not believe them. He told us that compared to the three years before the war, in 1943 we had 4 million more tons of rice. His department has presented India with 4 more million tons of rice. The imports from Burma before the war were, I believe, 1½ million tons. So he has presented this country with two and a half times the quantity that Burma sent us before the war. Does he ask us to swallow that? And if he does, I will ask the Honourable Food Member to distribute that 4 more million tons of extra rice to the rice-eating provinces, such as Travancore, Cochin and Malabar. In these deficit provinces there is one very great difference which the Honourable Member surely knows. Cochin, Travancore and Malabar are accustomed to eat rice. It is very difficult for them to take wheat, *bajra* or *jowari*. I believe the Governments of those provinces are trying their best but you cannot educate a people to eat something which they have never been accustomed to eat. It affects their health. I sympathise with them. But we in Bombay, who are also a deficit province can eat wheat, *bajra* and *jowari*. We have that advantage, and therefore I would ask the Honourable Food Member, while he considers this question of distribution, to keep this point in view. We can eat everything.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh (Bombay City Non-Muhammadan Urban) Including pebbles!

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir We have had to do that. While Malabar, Cochin, and Travancore may deserve a greater portion of rice and I am prepared to admit that, give us wheat, *bajra* and *jowari*, do not deprive us of the minimum quantity of food, of course a certain portion of rice must be supplied. With regard to these figures of the Honourable Member, I am afraid they do much more damage than good, because if we have got 6 more million tons of food now than we had in the three years before the war, where is it? With whom?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: With the producers to some extent.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: Did they eat nothing at all before the war? Are they consuming all these extra 6 million tons? I ask the Honourable Food Member—where is it?

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: Bunkum!

Sir Gowanjee Jehangir: Statistics are very dangerous things to play about with, and I think the Food Member realises that more than anybody else. One department says that it has given the Food Member 6 more million tons a year and when we cross-examine the Food Member not only here but in other places he has got nothing to say about those six millions and I will ask him this direct question—in which pocket has he got these six million tons of extra food? If he will tell us, we will raid it. Statistics are a dangerous thing and if Government are to be deceived, do not let them try and deceive us because it will only increase the discontent in the country. It will only increase agitation and rightly so. It will only give a handle to others to say that there must be something rotten in the Kingdom of Denmark if after getting 6 million extra tons of food in this country, as compared to the three years previous to the war, we are still starving.

Now, Sir, I will not take up the valuable time of this Honourable House. I will only say that I quite agree with the Deputy Leader of the Congress Party when he emphasized the principle that provinces should buy direct from the agriculturist and cut out the middlemen. That policy is being adopted in my province of Bombay and let me tell the Honourable Members it is not so easily done as said. There are many complaints. The Agriculturists feel that they are being compelled to part with a commodity for which in the black market they could get more. They feel that *sulum* is exercised on them by the subordinate officers. There are complaints of corruption on the part of these officials. Notwithstanding all these complaints, I agree, and I have said in this House time and again, that that should be the policy of provinces. It cannot be enforced from the Centre. The Centre is helpless. It is the provinces that are all powerful in this question of food and each province must suffer or gain according to the administration of that province. There are provinces that are better off than others. There are two reasons for it. One is the better administration, and the other, and the much more important reason, is the people themselves who are ready to help themselves. If the people are not ready to help themselves, well, they must suffer. There are two reasons why some provinces are better off than others. I will repeat that—better administration and the spirit of the people themselves. I am proud to say, Mr. President, that at least in the city of Bombay, we have seen some public spirit and people, men and women, never accustomed to work of this kind, volunteered for it before rationing came into existence, which set an example, which made not only rationing possible but rationing a success to a certain extent. I do not claim perfection for it and if the province of Bombay, being a deficit province, being a province that ought to be really starving, has done a little better than other deficit provinces, it is due to the spirit of the people and to the uncomplaining attitude of the millions who starve and suffer. There are millions in the province of Bombay, outside the city of Bombay, where, believe me, people are getting less than your most uncharitable minimum and still we are told and complimented on the condition of Bombay and that is why, Mr. President, I desire most earnestly to draw the attention of the Government to see that all provinces get per head an equal quantity of food and that some provinces should not be allowed, because they happen to be surplus provinces, to give their people much more than that minimum, while, we in the deficit provinces should be compelled by you to give our people much less than the minimum.

Dr. V. K. R. V. Rao (Government of India Nominated Official): Mr. President, I have been listening most carefully to the speeches which have been made from the other side of the House and it appears to me that the main substance of the speeches falls under two categories, a review of what the Government of India has done so far in the matter of food policy and food administration, and a recital of what should be done in extension of their existing food policy. It is not my purpose, Sir, to answer the charges which have been made against the administration of the Government's food policy as it exists at present and as was decided largely by the foodgrains Policy

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Committee, which, I may remind the House, pertained very largely to the supply of foodgrains and related mainly to the urban areas.

There have been, Sir, a number of detailed complaints about the administration of food in the various regions from which Honourable Members come and whose interests they represent in this House. It is obviously not possible for me, within the short space of time that I have at my disposal, to deal with those complaints, but I would like to assure the House that every one of those complaints is now under the active examination of the Food Department and if any Honourable Member has got any detailed matter on which he would require urgent inquiry and action to be taken by the Government in the Department of Food, I am authorised to give him an assurance on behalf of the Food Department that if only he will let me have the facts at the end of this debate or some time later, we in the Food Department shall take the most immediate steps to have them attended to.

Mr. Lalchand Navai Rai (Sind Non-Muhammadan Rural) I gave some facts to the Food Member about Sind and he has not replied.

Dr. V. K. R. V. Rao: During the course of the debate, a number of points have been raised regarding extension of the food policy, if I may say so, this concern with new matters perhaps implies that the House is not now so much concerned with the criticism of the food policy as it was formulated last year which pertained mainly to foodgrains in urban areas, but that the House is now passing on to further problems which have been raised by the comparative success of the existing food policy of the Government of India. The new problems to which reference has been made are things like the extension of rationing in rural areas, the effect of procurement on producers, the question of Government monopoly purchase, the question of the basic protective foods and non-cereal foodgrains, and also the question of subsidy.

As regards procurement, Government monopoly procurement is only now being extended in considerable parts of British India. The Department has already appointed a special officer who is an expert in the grains trade to visit all the provinces where a Government monopoly purchase system prevails, particularly to examine the manner in which the grain is being procured from the producer, the price that the producer obtains, the amount that is left to be retained by the producer and the effect of such procurement on rural areas. The report is now in the possession of the Food Department and copies of it are being printed and will be sent to all the Provincial Governments. This report is now under the active consideration of the Department of Food.

Mr. N. M. Joshi (Nominated Non-Official) Circulate it to all the Members.

Dr. V. K. R. V. Rao: I shall convey that suggestion to the Department. As soon as the Department has considered the report and obtained the views of the Provincial Governments, I am sure the Honourable Food Member would be able to come forward before this House and tell them what we intend to do regarding a number of problems such as those which my Honourable friend Prof. Ranga, who represents the Kisans, is particularly interested in.

Then, Sir, a very much larger question has been raised in this House, the question of subsidy. There have been two voices on the subject of the price of foodgrains. There have been some Members who have been saying that the prices of foodgrains are not particularly high at present and they should at least be permitted to be retained at their existing levels otherwise the producer will not produce, there will be no incentive to grow more food and there will be distress among the producing and agricultural classes. On the other hand, voices have also been raised in this House to the effect that the prices of foodgrains are high and it is not possible for many persons to purchase such quantities of foodgrains as are required for their nutritional requirements on account of the high prices of foodgrains and that something

of compromise and as a way of reconciling these two opposite points of view—high prices for the producer and low prices for the consumer—, a suggestion has been made in this House that Government should examine the principle of subsidy as far as the prices of foodgrains are concerned. I would like to tell the House that this principle of subsidy is under the active examination of the Food Department and it has been under their examination for some time past. It is not possible for Government to come to a decision on a complicated subject like that of subsidy without due consideration nor, I am sure, will the House expect from me any declaration of decision on the part of the Government as regards subsidy. But I think perhaps the House may be interested to hear from me a brief account of some of the enormous complications which arise from the question of subsidy and I shall do so not only from the point of view of giving information but also in the hope that subsequent speakers who shall follow me will take up this point and let the Government of India have some idea of how they themselves feel on these complicated problems.

It is important to realise—I know one Honourable Member in particular waxed eloquent on the subject of the analogy of the United Kingdom and I have not got the time to answer him here but shall be glad to do so outside this House—that the analogy of England giving a subsidy of 150 or 200 million £ is all very good, but we must remember that we are not dealing with England but with India, a country even whose total national income is lower than that of the United Kingdom. Now that we have reached the stage when the prices of foodgrains are already high, the question whether subsidy will have an anti-inflationary effect will very much depend upon how it is going to be financed.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: Is the agriculturist making any money?

Dr. V. K. R. V. Rao: That is a question which I am not prepared to answer on the floor of the House. All that I can say is

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: Is he not responsible for inflation to a certain extent?

Dr. V. K. R. V. Rao: I shall refer the Honourable Member to the speech that was made by the Prime Minister of Bengal and which was reported in yesterday's papers. He said that the cultivator in Bengal is very much better off than he was before and he was advising them as to what he should do with the surplus money that he has got.

But to come back to the question. What is going to be the amount of subsidy that the House would like to give? I would just give an illustration. If the idea is to introduce a subsidy and if the idea is to bring back the prices of foodgrains to what they were before the war—and the difference between the prices now prevailing and those before the war is Rs 3 to Rs 5 per maund of foodgrain, it must mean that the amount which will be required will run into hundreds of crores. I do not want to stagger the House with figures, but the amount will really run into hundreds of crores. And I should like to ask the House to consider how that money is going to be raised. If it is going to be raised by means other than taxation, it is not going to be of the slightest help as far as the bringing down of the prices of commodities in general and the cost of living are concerned. If it is to be obtained by methods of taxation, the House will consider on whom the incidence of it will fall and how far the incidence of this tax will leave the cultivator unaffected. Then again, my friend Prof Ranga will say that the subsidy should be such that the benefit goes to the producer and that it is not taken away by the middleman. I entirely agree with him that the benefit of the subsidy is for the producer, but what is going to be the technique that we are going to have for this purpose. If there is a Government monopoly purchase system where the Government buys grain directly from the producer—and I am very glad the Honourable the Deputy Leader of the Congress Party has lent his support to this and this is also the policy of the Food Department,—then it would be possible to institute this system of

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subsidy. But the House knows that, excepting in some parts of the country, the crop is not directly purchased from the producer by the Government. And what is going to be the machinery which is going to be devised for the purpose of seeing that the subsidy reaches the producer and is not intercepted on the way.

Then, Sir, there is also the question, if you are going to institute a subsidy, what are going to be the grains which will be subsidised? Are we going to subsidise only the cereals, such as, wheat, rice, barley, bajra, maize or are we also going to subsidise milk and milk products, vegetables, poultry, eggs and other foodstuffs? I am not saying that they should not be subsidised, but I just want to say that these are problems which require consideration and which cannot be answered on the spur of the moment. They have already been under the examination of the Food Department and they require a very long and exhaustive examination before it is possible for the Government to have a firm policy on the subject of subsidy.

Then, there is also the question of the consumer. As my Honourable friend Mr. Joshi pointed out, and quite rightly, because he represents the working classes, the benefit of the subsidy should be such that the consumer today is able to get foodgrains or other commodities at prices lower than what he is having to pay at present. Here, again, there are a number of complicated questions which have got to be answered. When we talk of the consumer, should the subsidy be given to all consumers or should it be given only to a certain class of consumers? And if it is going to be restricted to a certain class of consumers only and not to all consumers, then what is going to be the principle of restriction? Is it going to be on the basis of income or is it going to be on some other basis?

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Guntur Nellore Non-Muhammadan Rural) It should be on the basis of income.

Dr. V. K. R. V. Rao: If it is going to be on the basis of income, what should be the levels of income at which the subsidy should stop? Then, Sir, there is also the question, the moment you talk of income groups, about what would be the position regarding industrial workers. As my Honourable friend Mr. Joshi knows, quite a large number of industrial workers are getting a dearness allowance which is based on the existing cost of living. If the Government of India decides to have a policy of subsidised foodgrains for industrial workers and give them food at lower prices, will my Honourable friend Mr. Joshi be prepared to advise his friends to accept a reduction in the dearness allowance which is based on the cost of living, and which is based on the present high prices of foodgrains? I am not saying that he should, but I am only showing that that is a difficulty. The question as to what is going to be the position of industrial workers and all those consumers who have had the benefit of a higher income directly as a consequence of the rise in prices has got to be considered. Then again I do not know how my Honourable friend Prof. Ranga did not make an interjection and say "What about the rural people? Are you going to confine the benefit of the subsidy only to urban workers?" During the debate in this House I gathered the impression that the House has been very much concerned with the interests of the rural people. What then should be the position of the rural masses in a scheme of subsidy? What about particularly the classes with which I have the greatest sympathy and to which my Honourable friend Rao Bahadur Siva Raj referred, the landless labouring class, the class who has borne the strain of every economic stress in India? What is going to be their position in a scheme of subsidy? What is going to be position of the non-producers in rural areas and what is going to be the position of the inadequate producers in rural areas in a scheme of subsidy? What is going to be the position of producers who produce non-food crops? There are many complications.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: Therefore the solution is, do nothing in the matter.

Dr. V. K. R. V. Rao: I can assure the Honourable Member that I am

stating these facts for his consideration, and not with a view to show the impossibility of anything being done in the matter of subsidy. It is only to show that the problem is vast and complicated, it has got all sorts of implications, and financial implications are the biggest of all. Apart from the question of the amount that a scheme of subsidy of any reasonable character will cost, there is the question of who is going to bear the subsidy? Is it going to be the Central Government? Is it going to be the Provincial Government? If the subsidy is going to be met by taxation, then on whom should the incidence of taxation fall? My only point is that the whole question of subsidy is one that bristles with difficulties. It is not that the Food Department is oblivious of the fact that there are large classes of people in this country who do not get as much food as they should get. The Food Department is anxious that not only should the price of food grains be brought down and adequate supplies rushed to places where there is scarcity, but also that the people who are in need of food do actually get it. That is why we are investigating this question of subsidy. Apart from the question of income groups, rural groups, urban groups, etc., what is to be the position of pregnant mothers, nursing mothers and children? Would it be possible to have free or subsidised milk canteens all over the country? Is it desirable to have a system of subsidy on the basis of industrial canteens for the benefit of industrial workers?

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: May I ask the Honourable Member to tell me either inside or outside the House how this question has been solved in other countries?

Dr. V. K. R. V. Rao: The Honourable Member knows that I am entirely at his disposal outside this House, though I may not be within the precincts of this building. I have very little time left. All that I want to say is this. We, in the Food Department, have been considering this question of subsidy. It is under our most active examination. As soon as we come to a stage when it is possible to put forward any concrete suggestion, we may have to refer it to a inter-departmental Committee consisting of the Economic Adviser to the Government of India, a representative of the Finance Department, of the Food Department and of the Department of Education, Health and Lands for the purpose of going in greater detail into this question of subsidy. Sir, this question of subsidy will also be one of the problems which will be immediately investigated by the planning section of the Food Department to which the Honourable Food Member referred in his opening speech.

I should like to conclude my speech by saying one thing. A number of suggestions have been made on the floor of the House, some by way of detailed criticism of the food administration of the country. On all these matters any information given to the Food Department will be immediately investigated and whatever the Government of India can do by way of communicating to the Provincial Governments will be done. In the matter of new suggestions regarding policy which have been made, almost all of them, if I may say so, are suggestions which are well known already, which have been under the examination of the Food Department for a considerably long time and on which I hope the Food Department would be able to come forward before this House within a reasonable measure of time with concrete suggestions and policies. In the meanwhile, if Honourable Members opposite will forgive me, I do very much wish that some little credit had been given to the Food Department for the work that they have done in managing the food problem, at least as far as cereals and food grains are concerned.

Mr. Ananga Mohan Das (Surma Valley cum Shillong Non-Muhammadian): Mr. President, I shall not deal with the long statements given by the Government time after time to show how they have been carrying out the food policy and the food programme. I shall only refer to two or three points which will throw a flood of light on the administration of food problem in the different Provinces. The policy of procurement, distribution and control of prices, all these have failed in their effect on the people of this country. No

[Mr Aranga Mohan Dam.]

doubt the Government have been giving long statements, but the fact remains that their effect on the people of the country is most unsatisfactory. Regarding procurement policy, I shall show one instance. Government have given monopolies to contractors. In Assam paddy is being purchased by Government contractors at Rs 5 a maund though the gazetted rates are Rs 7-12-0 to Rs 8-4-0 a maund. There are purchasing centres to which these poor cultivators have to take their produce. The Government contractors, in order to hoodwink the poor cultivators say "Oh! the Government have stopped the purchase of rice. Go to such and such people." These people are all their middlemen. The poor cultivators are sent to these middle men. These middle men say, the Government are not purchasing, how, so you had better give the rice to us. They compel the cultivators to part with their rice at a low price, i.e., Rs 5 a maund. Thus these cultivators do not at all get the price which the Government have fixed in their communique or in the Gazette. The Government are simply anxious to get at the rice by some process or other. I brought these facts to the notice of the Chief Secretary of Assam Government, I also wrote to the Government of India, but no reply has been vouchsafed to me on this matter till now.

I will now take up the case of salt. Salt at one time was selling at twelve annas per seer in the sub-division of Maulvi Bazaar in the district of Sylhet under the very nose of the Sub-Divisional Officer. When the people complained and brought it to the notice of the Deputy Commissioner, no redress was given. Not only that. An officer went to Balaganj, a big market in the district of Sylhet and he detected a large quantity of salt hoarded by a merchant. The Government did nothing in the matter to punish the hoarder. The result was that the particular officer who detected this was transferred elsewhere. Even licensed merchants hoard salt. The people were starving for want of salt, and yet Government did nothing to bring out the hoarded salt to the public. I sent to the Government of India all this news published in the local paper the *Sylhet Chronicle*, I sent cuttings in the month of August, and now we are in November, I have not yet got any reply from the Government of India whether any enquiry has been made by the Government of India or not. This is the procedure of the Government of India. This is the policy they are pursuing in this country, to give relief to the people. The Food Department says, it has done much. I say they have done nothing at all. I can give a large number of instances of maladministration and really no credit is due to the Department, on the other hand, they deserve the condemnation of the people.

Now, I will take another point. There is the Fresh Fruit Ordinance in Assam. As the House is aware, Surma Valley is known for its oranges. Oranges are required for military purposes. The contract for purchase of oranges is given to people who are in the good books of the Provincial Government. Some people say they are all relations of the Provincial Ministers. I do not know about this. It is the talk of my town. As I was saying this Fresh Fruit Ordinance prohibits the export of oranges outside Assam. If they are not exported all of them are bound to perish. You can imagine the plight of the orange garden owners. The idea underlying this ordinance is that if the orange growers are not allowed to export, they will be compelled to sell them at low price to Government contractors. Otherwise the oranges will all perish and become unfit for human consumption. These contractors are thus able to purchase at a low price and sell at high prices to the military. The Fresh Fruit Growers Association in Surma Valley have written to the District authorities that they can sell the oranges at Rs 9. But the contractor who is now supplying it is getting Rs 11/8/- Of course I am not concerned with the contractor or any one else. What I want to know is why this fresh fruit Ordinance was passed. Instead of improving the situation it has only made it worse, because these perishable things will have to be sold at a lower price. Therefore I say that the Government of India are callous towards the interests of the agriculturists in spite

of their professions to the contrary This is a big problem before the country. If the price of consumer goods goes up and the price of the agriculturists' stuff goes down, what will be the condition of these poor people? These people whom I mentioned a few minutes ago are selling their paddy at Rs 5 and they have to buy their salt, kerosene and other essential commodities at a price which is beyond their capacity to pay.

Sir, I will not take up much time of the House, I only want to say that I gave these instances of corruption and maladministration to the Government of India, but they did not favour me with a reply as to what they are doing. I cannot thank this Government for their indolence, for their inactivity and for their want of sympathy with the people for whom they profess so much sympathy.

Mr. N. C. Chunder (Calcutta Non-Muhammadan Urban) Sir, on a point of order, what is the use our speaking when no one from the Food Department is in the House?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed (Leader of the House) The Food Member has just gone out and will be back very soon.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad (United Provinces Southern Divisions Muhammadan Rural) Sir, the production, consumption and distribution of food is at present a divided responsibility. One is in charge of the Food Department and the other in charge of the Agriculture Department. Agriculture is in itself a very big subject and it should not be tagged to a department which is responsible for everything from childbirth to the grave.

The shortcoming of the Government of India lies in the absence of farsightedness and imagination. We lost the import of rice from Burma and immediately action should have been taken to make up for this deficiency. My Honourable friend Mr. Tyson gave some figures about increase in production and my Honourable friend Mr. Gwilt quite cogently pointed out the increase of population during the same period, i.e., about 6 millions. Therefore increase of production should be correlated with the increase of population. Another thing is that the Food Department take the total production of cereals, forgetting that in certain provinces people eat nothing but rice. I have evidence that when *bayra* was sent to Travancore and other parts of Malabar, they did not know how to make bread and how to eat it. We all know that *bayra* cannot be eaten in the hot weather but can only be taken in cold countries and in the cold weather. Therefore it is useless to send it to Travancore and other rice eating provinces.

We recently appointed a Famine Commission. But the real problem in India is not so much the investigation of famine conditions but of growing more rice for the rice eating people. We have recently condemned the pegging system in South Africa but we have the same thing in the line system of Assam which is primarily responsible for the rice shortage in Bengal. I have figures with me. The total cultivable land now available in Assam valley is 5,747,786 acres, and according to the figure given by the Minister in Bengal they have got about 200,000 persons who are quite willing to go and cultivate this land. We have got the land, the men and the resources. Then why are we not able to produce the rice necessary for Bengal? People say that the acute condition does not exist, it may not exist at this moment, but Bengal is not out of danger and a slight variation in the crop will make the situation very acute. The other day there was a deputation of very influential men representing Assam waiting on Famine Commission and a Resolution was passed in which they said that the abolition of the line system will go a long way to permanently solve the problem of food shortage in Bengal inasmuch as it will bring under cultivation about 60 lakhs of bighas of arable land at present lying fallow in the Assam valley. Therefore this should be tackled at once. But who will do it? If I speak to the Food Department they say it is no business of theirs; the Agriculture Department say the same thing and refer me to the Home Department, who will perhaps say that they cannot interfere with provincial autonomy. But will the Government of India shirk their responsi-

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bility simply on account of the obstinacy of few individuals in Assam, when people in Bengal are dying of hunger and people in Travancore, Malabar, and other places are suffering so badly?

One thing has to be remembered that the quality of rice in the different places is different. The rice that is taken in Bengal grows only in Bengal and Assam and in damp climate and the rice grown in Upper India will not be consumed by the people of those provinces. Therefore simply to talk of growing more rice is meaningless, the quality of rice actually needed by famine province, has to be considered.

As regards this shortage of food and the removal of the line system, I find that Pundit Jawaharlal Nehru wrote to Sjt. Gopinath Bardoloi, the then Premier of Assam, that the present line system was wholly undesirable and he also said that

"Every effort should be made to avoid giving prominence to the communal aspect of it, essentially it is an economic question and should be tackled in an economic manner."

Miseries don't come alone. Another point in Bengal is that you took away their boats in pursuance of the denial policy. For the people of Bengal there are two essential articles of food, rice and fish. Unfortunately both of these things were taken away. Another factor which created difficulty was the influx of a large number of non-Bengalees in the departments of the Government of India and in military personnel, English and American. And they have to be fed very largely on the production of Bengal. These two additional factors—namely, influx of a large number of outsiders, and the taking away of boats—do not exist in Malabar, Cochin and Travancore. Therefore the conditions in those parts of the country were not so acute as in Bengal. Therefore, I strongly recommend, in order to avoid any future acute famine condition in Bengal—and I take it for granted that food shortage in Bengal has subsided only temporarily and may be revived at any time when there is slight failure in crop—(1) that Government should take steps to grow more rice in the cultivable land which is now available in Assam. (2) The Government should immediately provide boats to help the people of Bengal in fishing and transport. In certain parts of Bengal boats are the only means of transport and in order to facilitate that and also to provide some kind of living to people—for catching fish—Government should provide boats liberally. (3) The third thing which Government ought to realize is the fact that it is the responsibility of the Central Government to feed Calcutta. It is not the responsibility of the Bengal Government to feed Calcutta, as in Calcutta itself we have a large number of outsiders, mostly military who can afford to pay fancy prices for articles consumed by middle and higher class people. They can afford to buy all they want, and it is for this reason that prices have gone up abnormally as compared to Bombay and Delhi. And, therefore, unless the Government of India would take on themselves the responsibility of feeding Calcutta, it will not be possible for the Bengal Government, I am afraid, to do so. I would very strongly recommend to the Government of India to take action in the matter in order to avoid future famines. The troubles are not over, they are still there, and if the Government keeps silent over the matter, famine may recur. I say that the responsibility will be entirely ours and not that of the Government of Bengal. We have been hearing eloquent speeches, and we have had many debates on the food situation, there have been many committees and conferences also, but no action has been taken to relieve the people who are dying of starvation.

Then, I come to the question of distribution. First of all, distribution was in the hands of merchants and businessmen. Businessmen, unfortunately, have identified themselves with black markets. Therefore the responsibility shifted from the businessmen to officials. The officials are identifying themselves with the Defence of India Rules, and they are proving as inefficient as those who identified themselves with black markets. Both have failed. We have

how to try another method. You ought to associate a larger number of consumers themselves—non-official members—and they must work under the supervision of officials and with the help of businessmen. With the general supervision of officials, and with the advice of businessmen in actual work, consumers themselves should control distribution. Co-operative methods wherever possible may be tried.

Here is the Gregory Report. It says 'the Government ought to take full responsibility of the purchase'. The Government instead of taking the responsibility have changed the name, instead of calling the 'purchasing agents' they now say 'clearing agents'. Change of name does not make the scheme more efficient, Government ought to take direct responsibility of procurement. I gave notice of a Bill in which there were three points which I mentioned. One was about procurement. I say that the procurement of food is the responsibility of Government. The second thing was that price should be fixed by the Government and everything should be sold within limits, and the penalty should be very heavy for those who do not observe the rules properly. The Food Member did not permit me to introduce the Bill.

My Honourable friend, Mr. Rao discussed the question of subsidy. I could not possibly consider that Government is in a position to give subsidy to the growers and cultivators in this country. It requires three times the present income of the Government of India to do so. You can only give subsidy to those persons who try to cultivate virgin soil but to give money to the growers in this country in order to reduce the purchasing price is a very novel method and I am surprised that an economist should propound this theory. The details are so many as Mr. Rao himself pointed out, we will not come to any conclusion till five years after the war.

Sir, there is one thing which has not been done by the Food Department. They have fixed the price at which Government would purchase food grains from the producers, but they have not fixed the price which consumers shall have to pay. They should see that the difference between the two prices is not very great. At present we find that the difference is sometimes as much as Rs. 2/—, which is really very great.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): It is now Quarter Past One. The Honourable Member has five minutes more and he can finish his speech after Lunch.

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: There is a general desire in the House that, you would kindly give us another half an hour after Five of the Clock today.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): If this meets the convenience of the Members, the House will sit till Half Past Five of the Clock today.

Some Honourable Members: Yes, Sir.

The Assembly then adjourned for Lunch till Half Past Two of the Clock.

The Assembly re-assembled after Lunch at Half Past Two of the Clock, Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta) in the Chair.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Before lunch I submitted that the situation of rice in Bengal had not become stable. It is still precarious and we should make every attempt to grow more rice in the Assam Valley. Secondly we ought to provide as many boats as we possibly can to the people of Bengal to help them in fishing and in transport. Thirdly we have got in that area a very large number of Military personnel specially who require good food. The prices in Calcutta as quoted by two Honourable Members on the floor of the House are abnormally high as compared with other towns. To give relief to the people of Bengal, the Government of India ought to take responsibility to supply food to Calcutta and they should have large poultry farms, cattle farms and also vegetable farms and import livestock under

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lend-lease arrangements from America. It is very fair to the people of Bengal otherwise the prices will not come down however much you may subsidize.

The next thing I suggested was procurement. I said we follow the Gregory Report. If the Government will take the direct responsibility for purchases from the producers the complaints of large discounts to purchaser will be over. I do not see any difficulty in compulsory purchase. We follow the practice initiated by the Madras Government.

As regards prices, they ought to be stabilized. There is no question of giving a subsidy to growers. The prices should be economically fixed and there ought not to be any abnormal variation in prices from province to province and from district to district, and if a subsidy is necessary it ought to be given to stabilise the prices all over the country as we subsidise for stabilising exchange. Uniformity in prices and easy transport will close down black markets.

No doubt the situation has very much improved but the power behind the Food Department is still the combine or the grain dealers. They are a powerful body and I do not know whether the Food Department will ever be strong enough to break this monopoly. In the case of gram, it was declared by every province as an article not wanted. The moment the Food Department declared it open to free trade every province purchased it. It seems that this was arranged by the combine of the grain dealers.

The next thing is the question of distribution.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr Akhil Chandra Datta) You have one minute more.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: In places where we have the rationing card. The system prevalent in Delhi is hopelessly inefficient. If a person happens to come on a Saturday evening he will have to go without food for two days. He will not be able to get his card till Monday. There are so many other difficulties, the consumers must have their say. The officials don't appreciate the needs of consumers. The consumers should regulate the distribution. If you leave it to businessmen alone.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr Akhil Chandra Datta) Your time is up.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: There will be dishonesty. If you leave it to officials alone.

Mr. Satya Narayan Sinha (Daibhanga cum Saran Non-Muhammadian) There will be greater dishonesty.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: constant application of Defence of India Rules. But leave it to the consumers under the advice of the officials and the help and experience of businessmen. I shall discuss the difficulties of transport on other occasion.

Mr. Mannu Subedar: No one doubts the great business experience that the Food Member brings with him or his genuine sincerity to tackle the problem entrusted to him. But he must excuse non-officials if they take the food policy and the food administration of the Government of India and the Provincial Governments as a whole during the last five years. Sir, the figures given by Mr Tyson this morning were really very reassuring though why he takes credit for the Grow More Food campaign I do not know, as I have got here the Report of the Marketing of Rice in India and Burma published in 1941, page 482, in which in the years 1937-38 the acreage under rice was above 79 million acres and the production of rice was 31 million tons and 29½ million tons. But I would rather rely on what he said this morning and what he said means that there is enough food in this country and if that is so.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: No.

Mr. Mannu Subedar: the responsibility for the distress in any part of the country will be that Government's. On the other hand the European Group is in the habit of trying to confuse and brow-beat the Indian side and the cry of population has been raised. Let me dispose of it in a minute. On

the one hand over 3 millions have been taken away as combatants and non-combatants. Perhaps 1 million of them are dead. Two to three millions are dead on account of famine and diseases and in any case the new births since the war are infants and they are not likely to consume even the very limited ration which the Food Member offers. Therefore the problem is a problem which should be and could be considered without bringing the red herring of population across it, which has been attempted. The wisest remark which was made on the whole of this debate was by my friend Mr Siva Raj, when he said that the entire food difficulty arose on account of the war. Mr Siva Raj wanted to exonerate the Government of India and he said it was due to the war and what could the Government of India do? As a matter of fact the trouble started with the denial policy in Bengal when 26,000 boats were confiscated and actually grain was exported from Calcutta in Bengal. It was taken away from the villages. Since the beginning of the war the entire concern of this Government has been to get the necessary military supplies. They have left the civilian population to fend for itself like chickens in a coop or sardines in a tin. This lack of foresight on their part is responsible for the various troubles we are experiencing. The Honourable the Food Member would have served Government as well as the country much better if he dwelt a little more on the lack of power of himself and his Government and their unwillingness to exercise this power at the proper moment.

Sir, in this country we are always at war. We are at war with poverty, hunger and disease and in this war all the people through this country, irrespective of party politics, are at one. Even Mr Griffiths had to say that the food problem ought to be now considered as important as the war itself! This is our war and if the Honourable the Food Member would only exercise the powers which he has or ask for more powers which he has not and if the Government were really active, the position would be very much better.

Now, Sir, I shall dwell on some of the mistakes, and some of the omissions on the part of the Government which have really accentuated the trouble and from the nemesis of which we are not still free. For one thing, Sir, Government have got an enlightened doctor, an economic Adviser who has produced a prescription for them. But what has happened? The report is probably going between the various Departments. Probably the Finance Department had something to say, the Agricultural Department had something to say or the Political Department had something to say and by the time they have made up their mind as to what could be done, much precious time is lost and it is a pity that even now Government have failed to act up to their own report, to the advice given by their own doctor. Why have the Government, may I ask, failed to import the quantity of food which is necessary and which was recommended and for which public bodies pressed on all sides? Because they have not the spine, they have not the will, they had no desire, they had not the humanity to see what would happen to the civilian population in this country. They were entirely concerned with the war. In the beginning of the war there were people who were war-mad, who thought of nothing but the war, who would not allow anybody to say a word outside the war issue. I have heard, Sir, from an officer who was returning from Syria that he had a fight with a British Officer on the boat in the docks of Bombay as the boat was entering, because that British officer said that famine will help recruiting and this was before the Bengal famine. There were, as I said, people who were war-mad and so they entirely ignored the requirements and the necessities of the civilian population of this country.

Take the position of the Government of India *vis-à-vis* the Provincial Governments. Sir Homi Mody came to our Chamber, so did Mr Sarker, Sir Ramaswami Mudaliar and other Members in succession including the Honourable the Food Member. We always raised the question. When you could, why don't you do something with the Provinces which have a surplus

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and see that there is a just and proper distribution throughout India? They said that there was the difficulty of Provincial Autonomy. I do not know (because the number now exceeds many hundreds) the number of Ordinances which have been issued and which have cut across not only the legislative authority of this House but also the legislative and administration authority of all the Provincial Legislatures and the Ministries. I cannot understand, Sir, how the Government of India came to regard the food position as not important enough to enable them to exercise the powers which they have exercised in less important fields, according to some of us in most obnoxious fields.

The Food Member was congratulating himself that the surplus Provinces are now falling into line so far as rationing is concerned but have they fallen into line so far as the release of their surplus produce is concerned? Is it not a fact that very many of them indulged in open profiteering, some of them added to the price of the food, which they permitted to be exported, several acres of rupees and dispensed with an old outstanding debt and they set such a bad example that several Indian State administrations in various parts of the country found this a golden opportunity. They, in their turn, robbed their own peasants of the food produced and they exported it at a very heavy price. This did not end there. If the Government of India had shown strength all these evils would not have arisen. In the surplus provinces there was a very strong tendency towards hoarding. Merchants held back commodities in the expectation of a rise in prices. Lorry-drivers, station masters, coolies, porters and others were threatened that if they helped in the export of food from that particular place they would be penalised. The Government of India did not act in time and a great psychological harm was done, first by the denial policy in Bengal and afterwards by the speculation, the hoarding and the holding back in the expectation of better prices, which took place in the various provinces.

The Government of India showed themselves weak with regard to His Majesty's Government. They did not convince His Majesty's Government of the necessity of the importation of food which was urged from all quarters. They are still in communication with His Majesty's Government and though Sir Henry French has come and gone, I hope the Honourable the Food Member will be able to tell us whether there is going to be a pleasant and welcome outcome of this mission.

Sir, they could not get shipping for food that was the excuse. May I ask what was the necessity for whisky in this country, whisky which the Commerce Member said was food to some people! May I ask why have cosmetics and soaps arrived in Bombay in such large quantities and why are steel and iron and piping and other things arriving in Bombay in steamer loads. Does this House know that under the plea of consumer goods whole steamer loads have arrived in Bombay of various classes of goods which may be needed in this country but some which are not needed, such for example as 2 million kerosene lamps. Kerosene lamps have been imported into this country when it is well known that the people have not got the kerosene to burn them and they are lying there on somebody's account. They have eaten up valuable shipping space. What were the Honourable the Food Member and his predecessors doing when all this was occurring. Why were they so spineless?

Take the next point. When they convinced His Majesty's Government that some food was wanted for India what did they get? They got barley, which the Government of Bombay was compelled to buy. That barley was only barley in the sense in which some scientists would say that it belongs to the same generic family. It was not barley and it was not eatable by human beings. Its entire cost was debited to the Bombay Government who were compelled to purchase it and of course in their turn the Government of India argued "What can we do, we have been compelled to purchase it".

That was not all. Then came what is known as the small red wheat from Canada. Those are products which human beings never consumed in the past and which they will never consume in the future but which my unfortunate province had to accept at full value and dispense to the population. The Government of India had not the courage nor the strength or spirit to resist that offer and to tell His Majesty's Government that this would not do. We made a suggestion at one time that Indian wheat should not be sent out to Russia, Middle East, North Africa and Italy. We suggested that instead of importing from Australia for India and sending out Indian wheat why don't you do this way, *viz.*, making a prohibition of the export of Indian wheat and let Australia supply these things directly, but the Government of India would not accept, they were not willing, they did not see the humanity, they did not see the wisdom of the suggestion. Sir, even very late, even in the course of this year we have been urging the complete prohibition or the export of ground-nut, which is in substitution for other foods a very valuable food product. What is the position? The Government of India could not do anything. Why? Because the U K C C was concerned. It was the U K C C who took the food from here for Russia, when the Ukraine was gone it was the U K C C which took ground-nut from here—very badly needed for the population of Malabar and elsewhere. It would be a most wonderful substitute for other foods and as an ancillary food.

Prof. N. G. Ranga. And manure also

Mr. Manu Subedar: My friend reminds me that 'even now the Government of India and the Department of Agriculture is so slack, so negligent of its normal duties that it permits the export of agricultural manure, when on the one hand it tries to grow more food—more food can be grown in the country if more manure was made easily available, but the manure is taken away from this country at a time when it is most needed in this country.

Sir, Government missed the psychological factors, as I said. What is the use of the Food Member congratulating himself that Rs 18-12 is the stabilised price in Bengal? Does he know that even when Rs 2-8 was the price per maund, there were millions in this country on the margin of starvation, barely making a living, barely getting food? If they were starving on Rs 2/8 a maund, does he not imagine what the state of starvation would be when the price is Rs 18-12? And this is the price which has been brought down! My Honourable friend will not dispute with me that the price reached as high as Rs 50 and Rs 70 in Dacca and Chittagong during the worst troubles. The psychological factor therefore is that the prices must be brought down. They must be brought down, not in a manner to hurt the cultivator, but they must be brought down from the inflationary factors which have affected it. Who is the greatest culprit with regard to inflation? I do not merely refer to the note printing by the Honourable the Finance Member, I also refer to the railway charges. I refer to the profiteering over materials supplied to Bengal, indulged in by the Government of India themselves, about which, when Mr. Suhrawardy made a big fight, the Honourable Finance Member said he will disgorge and make good Government profiteering of every description by anybody should stop, they should set the example. I as representing the commerce of India in this House will say without hesitation that they should set an example which others can follow, and if there is anybody not willing to follow that example in the matter of food, down with him. Take any measures you like and we shall be with you.

Time does not permit me to deal with numerous points which my friend Dr. Rao raised. They are of course important points; but the question is whether the points were raised by my friend, Dr. Rao, in order to come to a solution, or are they merely raised in order to tell us that you are thinking about them. What is the use of your continuing to think if the harm happened in the interval?

I have two or three suggestions to make and I say that I am addressing myself in this not merely to the Food Member but to the committee of the

[Mr. Manu Subedar]

Viceregal Council which is going into this at higher levels. Let it be remembered that I am speaking on higher levels also and with every desire that the policy of the Government of India in the matter of food should succeed. We are not here out to deflect you from the policy you have undertaken. We are here to support you and to make suggestions both here and outside, at any time when you need it. The Centre should bear the cost of supplying food at the same price to consumer as it purchases from the farmer, the freight, deterioration and administration. The first thing I would suggest is, that instead of conundrums which my friend Dr. Rao has expounded, I would suggest that when food moves from a surplus to a deficit province, it should move down on railway material rates. This will be some small assistance in the matter of freight. The railway revenues are now swollen to unnatural figures and this would be a very legitimate and proper use, particularly as the railways of India are even now giving concessions.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta) You have got two minutes more.

Mr. Manu Subedar: They are giving concessions to military movements to you war. There is no reason why for this purpose the Honourable the Food Member if he showed strength and if he had, as I believe he would have, the support of all his Indian colleagues, why he should not get this.

I would say a word briefly about milk and animals. It is my belief—and I challenge the Government to produce figures to the contrary—that more animals are slaughtered in this country than are being produced by the natural process. You can only supplement them by importation. If not, the grow-more-food campaign and the powerful array of figures quoted by Mr. Tyson would next year be a very sorry tale. This is the catastrophe lurking, in my opinion, and I think it merits and deserves complete examination and I should have brought to light many more facts here if I had the time.

The next question is about corruption and profiteering. By whichever door it enters your house, that is, this country, it is bad. It is a bad heritage and it will take years for our people to overcome this, and I say, whether it is in the central departments, in the people who give permits for transport, people who handle procurement, people who concern themselves with distribution, whether central or provincial, the blame comes to this Government and this Government ought to arm itself with powers as my friend Mr. Abdul Qayum suggested. About the subsidy which is wanted, it is not difficult to find out who are the most fit people to whom you should give it. Start with common humanity. You will soon discover the man who cannot pay for his food, not only at 13-12 which he cannot pay but at pre-war prices. Give him first the food he requires. Do not argue about it—as to which department will do it or from where the funds will come, give him food. It is a tragedy and it is a blight on British rule in this country that human beings should die for want of a little food, and I hope the Honourable the Food Member and his colleagues would wake up and would show strength, would make up for their past omissions and would put the matter right.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: Sir, I listened with due attention the speech made by the Honourable Food Member a few days ago. I rise now to point out some of the omissions and errors in that speech and to make a few observations on the food policy of the Government. The Honourable the Food Member did not say anything about the magnitude of the great disaster which was the greatest in India since 1771. Nor did he make even a passing reference to the after-effects of the famine of last year. It is known to careful observers that the famine of last year not only carried away millions of persons from the unfortunate province of Bengal, but left the remainder of the population in a debilitated and devitalised condition. The result is that this year this devitalised population is unable to resist the onslaught of diseases like malaria and cholera, and are falling easy victims to them. Thus we find

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that the famine took a heavy toll of human lives last year and is taking another heavy toll this year

But what is the Government doing to prevent further loss of life? Very little. Medicines are not available in many parts of the country and where they are available the prices are so high as to be beyond the reach of the poor people. The policy followed by the Government of Bengal is the old policy of callousness and complacency and their criminal negligence is as great this year as it was last year.

Sir, the devastation which has been caused by the famine can be gathered from the reports of persons who have visited the villages during the last few months. I am one of those who paid visits to some of these 3 P. M. unfortunate villages and I found that most of the mud huts in which the poor people live are in a state of ruin and the poor people find it difficult to protect themselves from rain or the cold wind. In the riverside villages, the people have no occupation left to them because their boats were taken away. In the villages where weavers predominate, there is no occupation for them because of the high price of yarn. I could multiply instances, but time will not permit me to do so. In a word, I must say that it is a mistake to suppose that the famine is over. If technically, deaths from starvation are no more, deaths from the after-effects of starvation are still there and in very large numbers.

Now, coming to the figures given by my Honourable friend with regard to the prices of rice, I say that they are only partially but not wholly correct. It is true that the sub-divisional average of prices of rice is in the neighbourhood of Rs. 13 but the prices which prevail in some of the deficit areas are higher than those mentioned by my Honourable friend. I may point out that even if you take the figure of Rs. 13 per maund all round, it is needless to tell anybody who has even a very nodding acquaintance with the economic system of the country that the price level is today nearly four times as high as that of the pre-war normal year. I do not want that the price level of rice and other foodgrains should go back to the pre-war level, but certainly further substantial reduction in prices is urgently called for. Otherwise, the poor people will not be able to get a sufficiency of food and there will be more deaths either directly or indirectly.

What about Calcutta? My Honourable friend failed to mention the case of Calcutta. In that city, the price fixed is Rs. 16½ per maund. What is the justification for maintaining the price of rice at such a high figure in Calcutta? The residents of Calcutta are not all rich people. There are many labourers, small artisans and the poorer sections of the middle-class. These are being hit very hard by the high price of rice which prevails in Calcutta.

Then, Sir, my Honourable friend does not mention at all the prices of other articles of food, mainly what is known as protective food—milk, milk-products, fish and vegetables. The prices of these articles are 4 or 5 times higher than they were last year. Now, what are the causes of the high prices of these articles of food? Let us take milk first. Pure milk is not available even at the price of one rupee per seer in any part of Bengal. Now, the real reason for this is the great slaughter of cows. In fact, the slaughter of cows in Bengal was greater than in any other province of India. And what was the object—to feed the military. Then, in the case of fish, there is also the demand of the military has a priority over the demand of the civil population. As regards vegetables, the same thing happens. Now, taking all kinds of food together, it is clear that the total cost of food at the present day is much greater than that of last year. The question is: How long can the people suffer from this state of things? The remedy must come, and a remedy can come if the Government make separate arrangements for the supply of food for the military and their entourage. If that is not done, the situation in Bengal will become even more serious in future than it is at the present day.

[Dr P. N. Banerjee]

Sir, my Honourable friend seeks to depict a picture of the province which is rosy, but I find that the picture is not only not rosy at all but is a most dismal one. My friend points out that there has been an improvement in the prices of foodgrains and he claims credit for his Government and the Provincial Governments for that. But to whom should the credit go? To Providence. I frankly admit that the Central Government did something to relieve the distress of the starving millions of Bengal at a very critical period and to that extent thanks are due to them. But so far as the Provincial Government is concerned, I am not prepared to say that. There the same bungling policy has continued, the system of procurement of foodgrains is a faulty one, as has been pointed out by a committee appointed by the Government of Bengal. Price control has become a joke as well as a scandal. And rationing has become a source of great inconvenience as it has been worked in a manner which is extremely troublesome to people, also very bad food is being supplied in the rationing shops. Above all, there are huge quantities of foodgrains which have been wasted, and the Committee to which I referred has condemned the system of storage. What a pity is it that before the eyes of the starving population huge quantities of foodgrains were and are still rotting. This is a sin against God and a crime against man.

Sir, added to these serious defects in the administration the Government of Bengal has not been able to show any competence in the matter of dealing with the food situation and corruption is rampant throughout the administration. This is so far as the present situation is concerned, what about the future?

Sir, it seems to me that the Honourable the Food Member is taking a short-sighted view of the future. He hopes to tide over the present trouble, but is the mere tiding over of the present trouble enough? Certainly not. Bengal is at the present moment faced with a three-fold problem. The first is the problem of rehabilitation, the second is the problem of re-vitalization, and the third is the problem of the prevention of the recurrence of the famine. If this three-fold problem is to be solved to the satisfaction of all, greater energy will have to be put forth into the work and a well thought-out policy will have to be adopted. Now, towards the achievement of this end, I should like to make a few suggestions. In the first place, I should like to suggest that the intervention of the Government of India should not cease but should be continued as a part of a consistent and continuous policy. Secondly, I should suggest that greater financial assistance should be given to the province of Bengal by the Central Government, by the British Government and by the United Nations through the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Fund. Thirdly, I would suggest that the Administration of Bengal should be placed on an efficient and honest basis. Fourthly, I would suggest that normal trade channels should be utilised to a greater extent in the future than has been the case in the past. Fifthly, greater facilities of transport should be provided. Sixthly, the importation of foodgrains from abroad should be continued until the whole country is self-sufficient in respect of her food supply. Seventhly, the production of food within the country should be greatly accelerated and the 'grow-more-food' campaign should no longer be a paper propaganda but should tackle the realities of the situation. Lastly, Sir, I would suggest that a long-range policy should be formulated by the Government and actively pursued.

With regard to this last suggestion, it was made by me nearly two years ago, if it had been accepted by the Government there would have been a considerable improvement in the situation by this time. But better late than never. My Honourable friend now speaks eloquently of this long-range policy and he tells us that he would be able to supply us with "more food, better food, balanced food." These are eloquent words, but words

are of very little value if they are not translated into action. *I hope and trust* that he will do his best to translate his words into action

Sir, so far the Government in this country has failed to perform its primary duty, namely, that of saving human lives from starvation. And what is the result of that? The result is, as has been pointed out by my Honourable friend Mr Griffiths, himself a Britisher, that there has been a considerable "lowering of the prestige of the Government in the eyes of the world." Is it too much to expect that Government will now take steps which will prevent a further lowering of its prestige and will adopt such measures as will help to raise this prestige in the eyes not only of the Indian people but of the peoples of other countries as well?

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan (Rohilkund and Kumaon Divisions Muhammadan Rural) Mr Deputy President, let me say at the outset that so far as the food situation in the country is concerned, a narration of hunger and starvation, disease and death, have become an annual feature of this Honourable House. The matter has been under discussion for the last three days and I do not think there has been any Honourable Member of this House, at least on this side, who has not narrated a tale of woe of what has been happening throughout India.

Sir, yesterday, my Honourable friend Mr Griffiths, who I notice is not here, made a very eloquent speech, except for his comparison of conditions in England with those prevailing in this country. My Honourable friend Mr Griffiths stated that in England, everything with regard to the question of food was perfect. He blamed the administration of this country as well as the people of India for the inefficient manner in which the food problem has been tackled. As far as the people of India are concerned, he asked us that we should be active. My Honourable friend Sir Cowasjee Jehangir also suggested that the people really should come forward and try to eradicate all the evils that exist in the administration of food. Both these Honourable Gentlemen counted without the host, which is the British Government in this country and which is British domination in every walk of life in India. Sir, I am afraid that these two gentlemen who try to put some blame on the people of India really do not know the real conditions that prevail in the land. They do not come into contact with so many "tin gods" who are part and parcel of this machinery, the Government of India. These "tin gods" do not like any interference or any helpful co-operation or suggestion from the people in this country. I will give you one instance. It is a very recent one. The gentleman who is in charge of the Food administration and Rationing in U P went to Meerut. The joint secretary of the local Muslim League took a deputation to him and complained to him about the difficulties that the people were experiencing in securing fuel. He listened to their complaints and after that he asked them, 'are there any complaints with regard to food or any other matter?' Now, Sir, this young man, the joint secretary of the Muslim League said "Yes, but I have no personal experience. I have heard it stated that the food ration which is being distributed or sold in the ration shops, is in a number of cases unwholesome." This officer asked the joint secretary to go along with him. He took him to the bazaar of Meerut. Unfortunately for our joint secretary, most of the shops were closed, but there were one or two open. So, he took him there and said "look here, what is wrong with this grain. This is all right." The young joint secretary told him "I told you beforehand that it was not my personal experience, but that it was what I had heard, and as most of the shops are closed today, you really cannot say that these complaints have no foundation whatsoever." What was the result? An order was given to the police to prosecute this young man under the Defence of India Rules. With what face can the Government come forward and ask the people to co-operate with them? You do not want any co-operation. When they want to be helpful to you, you prosecute them. Sir, my Honourable friend Mr. Griffiths—who I am glad to see is present here now—blamed the administration of this country for the inefficient manner in which the food

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problem was being tackled. I wonder if he really realised that he was in fact putting the blame on the Britishers inasmuch as the Governor General of India who has all the powers is a Britisher, and the Governors of the Provinces, who are really the persons who administer those Provinces, in spite of the Ministries that may be functioning, are all Britishers. If this administration of food has failed in this country, it shows the bankruptcy of statesmanship, and administration on the part of the British people. My Honourable friend may think that as there are so many Indians in the Executive Council and in the services, therefore, really the blame would be or at least most of the blame would be shared by them. With due respect to the great powers and the great influence that the Honourable Members of the Executive Council of the Governor General of India enjoy, let me say that all the key posts of the administration are in the hands, not of these gentlemen, but in the hands of the "steel frame" to which my Honourable friend Mr. Griffiths belonged once upon a time. It is true that in that steel frame, we do find some men who are made of Tata steel but it goes without saying that it is the "British steel" that is ruling this country, and if there is any defect in the administration of food in this country, the blame lies on the British people and the British Government.

Sir, let me dispose of the speech of my Honourable friend Dr. Rao to whom I listened with great attention. I congratulate him on the torrential eloquence of his speech. He put to the Honourable Members of this House a number of posers. I thought that it was for the experts to answer difficult questions, and it was for laymen to put before them their difficulties. But in this case, Mr. Deputy President the process was reversed. Surely he does not expect me to give him an answer to all the questions he put in the short space of time that is at my disposal. But let me tell him that on his own confession he realises that the question of giving subsidy is a matter which cannot be ruled out. He himself admitted that this matter was not only under consideration, but under active consideration, of the Food Department. Therefore it was that a proposal was made from this side of the House that the question of subsidy should be considered and that subsidy should be given to bring down the high prices now prevailing which are beyond the reach of the poor people. There are of course two ways of doing it. One method is to bring down the prices of foodstuffs and the other method is, before doing that, to bring down the prices of all those things which are required by the cultivator. You cannot bring down the prices of foodstuffs if the cultivator has to buy all his requirements at fabulous prices. My Honourable friend was referring to the case of industrial labour. My Honourable friend is an economic expert and I hope he will forgive me for saying that there was something in his mind which he left unsaid. But he said "Will industrial labourers be willing to accept less wages than what they are getting at present?" I will tell my Honourable friend Dr. Rao with the limited knowledge of economics that I and other Members on this side possess, that it is not the amount of money that you give to a man which really matters but it is the purchasing power of the money which is important. Therefore Sir I am afraid the speech of my Honourable friend Dr. Rao has not been very helpful. We expected that an expert would give us the benefit of his expert knowledge instead of putting posers to us.

Sir, I read the speech of the Honourable the Food Member with great attention. He has tried to take credit for his department and for himself for what Government have been able to achieve, which in my opinion is mighty little, and wherever there has been an uneasy situation he has glossed over it. He referred to the question of wastage and he admitted that there has been a lot of wastage. I think the House would have appreciated it still more if he had given us some figures of the wastage that has taken place during the last year. We want to know what is the quantity of foodstuffs that has been wasted due to the inefficient manner in which the Government do

India have administered this department. I looked at the speech most carefully, I read it more than once, but I did not find any figures with regard to the quantity of foodstuff that has been wasted due to the negligence of either the officials or the agents of the Government.

Of course the Government of India are past masters in the art of appointing committees, holding conferences, and importing experts. They always appoint a committee to inquire into a matter when the situation no longer requires it. We are told that they have imported an expert from the Middle East to help the Government of India in the matter of avoiding wastage of foodstuff. Sir, this reminds me of a story. In the olden days,—and I suppose even now,—in every village you have a *buj-bujakar*, a man who knows everything, master of all. Once upon a time a young boy climbed up to the top of a tree, he had done this for the first time in his life and he did not know how to come down. So there was great confusion and the villagers did not know how to bring that boy down from that tree. The whole village collected there and at last word was sent to this wise man of the village, the expert, to come and make a suggestion as to how that boy was to be brought down. He came, scratched his head, rubbed his eyes and said, "Yes, it is a difficult situation, but please bring a rope." So a man brought a strong rope. The expert said, "Throw it up to that boy." So they did it and asked the boy to catch hold of it. The boy did it and the men below told him to tie it tightly round his waist. The boy did that also and this wise man asked about half a dozen men to pull the rope. The men pulled the rope, the boy fell down and died. These people then said to this wise man, "What have you done?" He looked very sad and said, "My friends, this boy's time had really arrived because in hundreds of cases I have pulled out men by the same method from wells." Sir, they have imported an expert who knows nothing about the conditions of this country, nothing about the climate here, and he is going to advise the Government of India as to how to save all this wastage of foodstuff. I may tell the Honourable the Food Member that in this country agriculture has been and is the chief industry of the people, and for thousands of years they have done nothing but cultivate the soil. The villager knows how to protect his foodstuff, of course the agents that the Government of India employed were not expected to know it. Therefore instead of importing experts from outside it would have been much better if the Government of India had made use of local talent and village talent in this respect.

Sir in this amendment moved by Mr. Essak Sait we have criticised the policy of the Government of India in the matter of procurement. Sir their procurement has been not only ineffective but wasteful, and I hope the Honourable the Food Member will correct me if I give any wrong narration of a case which has come to my knowledge. I understand that the Government of Bengal arranged with the Nepalese Government to procure in Nepal one hundred thousand tons of rice. A certain price was fixed—I have got all the figures and if my Honourable friend would ask me I will give further details, but I do not think at this stage it is necessary—a certain price was fixed for rice as well as for paddy. The Central Government, with all the authority that it possesses and which it always uses in the wrong direction, ordered the Government of Bengal to take their hands off this deal, and they appointed their own agent to buy this rice in Nepal, who bought this rice at a price which was Rs. 2/12 per maund higher in the case of rice, and about Rs. 1/8 per maund higher in the case of paddy. Thereby, Mr. Deputy President, the Government suffered a loss of nearly 40 lakhs. Then what happened? That is not the end of the story. This man had never dealt in such big quantities of rice—he had probably got this contract for reasons which are either unknown or, too well known—he had never handled such big quantities in his life before. There was a big amount of wastage. I understand that the value of wastage of the rice amounts to nearly 80 lakhs of rupees, and now the Government of India are trying to see that this loss is not borne by this "innocent" man but by either the Central Government or the Governments to whom the rice has been or will be supplied. Apart from this loss in money, I suggest that it is criminal that such big

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amounts of foodstuff should be lost when people are dying of starvation, when people are suffering from various diseases due to malnutrition. This is, Sir, only one instance, and I dare say that there are hundreds within the personal knowledge of a number of members of this Honourable House.

As regards distribution, Mr Deputy President, it is the same tale. I do not have to give any instances in this respect because the Honourable Member for Food himself admits the difficulties that they are still experiencing with regard to the carriage of foodstuffs from the surplus to the deficit areas.

With regard to price control, I submit that if you control the price of only certain cereals and do not control the price of other foods that are required for human consumption, you are really not dealing with the problem effectively. My Honourable friend, Mr Griffiths, gave some instances from Calcutta, but let me tell him what is happening under the very nose of the Honourable the Food Member—in New Delhi. We see that in the *Statesman* certain prices are published, the prices of various articles of food including meat, eggs, fish, fruit and so on for the next week. But nobody is selling those articles at those prices, nobody can get them. So, that is no remedy. Of course it serves one purpose. If and when public raises a cry, Government will come forward and say that there is control. They will take cuttings from the *Statesman* to whom, I suppose, they pay a handsome amount for publishing these, attach those cuttings to the files and they will say, 'look here, we have fixed the prices'. Sir, it is really the most inefficient manner in which this problem is being tackled. Everybody knows that cereals are not the only food that is consumed by people in this country. It is supplemented by so many other articles and unless you are able to control all articles of food, you will not be able to solve this problem which is facing the country. Sir, the Honourable Member for Food gave us some figures with regard to the quantity of ration that is being given in various areas. He told us that in Cochin it was 6 ounces or 5½ ounces. 6 ounces really means so little that even I think my Honourable friend Mr Griffiths' dog would eat more than that. What is the use of giving so little food to people and then feeling complacent about it. All the disaster that we hear of prevailing in the various parts of the country is due to the fact that the amount of food which is being given to the people even under the ration scheme—I am not talking of those poor people who cannot get any food whatsoever—is so little that it is really impossible for a human body to resist any infectious germs. My Honourable friend, Mr Tyson, stated that they have grown. I think I am right in saying 6 million tons of rice more than what they used to do before the war.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: All food put together.

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: Yes.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr Akhul Chandra Datta) You have got two minutes more.

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: Sir, according to the Gregory Report, I understand that what was required was only about a million tons from outside India and according to the figures that my Honourable friend, Sir Cowasjee Jehangir, gave us India used to import only 1½ to 2 million tons of rice from Burma. So, in fact, we have got much more rice in India today than what we had before.

An Honourable Member: Where does this go?

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: My Honourable friend asks where does it go. I can only think that probably all of it or most of it goes in wastage which figure the Honourable the Food Member has not given us.

Sir, the negligence with regard to food is indeed criminal in this country. There are indeed a number of other matters which could be dealt with by me, but as you have just said I have very little time at my disposal, I will wind up by saying that as far as the question of solving the food problem in this country is concerned, there is no party and no individual who has refused his co-operation to the Government. If you have not been able to take advantage of that offer the fault does not lie with us; the fault lies with you.

The fact is that your officials who are "the nests of corruption" do not want any outside examination of their administration and that is the reason why they neither welcome nor do they encourage any public co-operation in this matter. Sir, it is a well-known fact—everybody knows it, may be that the Honourable the Food Member does not know it, or would pretend not to know it—that as far as the Food Department is concerned, it is rife with corruption and nothing effective is being done by the Government of India or their agents, the Provincial Governments, to eradicate this evil. Unless and until there is a marked change in your outlook and in your policy, this situation would continue to be serious and the hundreds and thousands of people will continue to suffer for want of food and from disease and deaths from starvation will go on,—the blood of all these people, the miseries of all these people, will be on your heads.

Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai (Bombay Northern Divisions Non-Muhammadian Rural) Mr Deputy President, Sir I rise to support the amendment which in collaboration with my Honourable friends, most of the Non-Official Members of this House, we have placed for the consideration of this body. For it is not uncommon that the Government instead of saying positively what their policy is, bring in a most neutral and non-committal motion before the House. When the question of South Africa was before us the Honourable Member moved that the situation may be taken into consideration. When an equally important question comes before the House relating to food, the Honourable Member in charge says the question may be taken into consideration, as if it is no part of their responsibility formally as to what their policy of case is. But notwithstanding the fact, that is the manner in which they want it to put before the House so that ultimately they may be able to defend themselves by what you may call a mere argument and not a question of policy or principle. Hence it is that in future I do commend to this House that they will demand that whenever the Government puts forward a proposal it should be in terms definite, it should be in terms affirmative and it should be in terms in which one is able to say to what extent there is an alternative to that policy. What we are left with is this that you are asked to say that this is a matter to be considered. Of course, who denies it? And therefore we are obliged to put forward an amendment in the form in which we have done—that all you say is that it should be considered we say, having considered we are of this opinion which we have put forward and embodied in that amendment. So much, Sir, for the form and manner in which questions of this grave and pre-eminent importance are being dealt with on the other side of the House.

There is the first and foremost observation which I wish to make. Even during war time, side by side with fighting the war, it must be the duty of the State, if it wants to fight the war efficiently to see to it that the health, the strength and the morale of the rest of the population is maintained side by side with those who are fighting in the actual front. That is the accepted duty of all the States who are now fighting the war. But unlike them all, so far as the Indian administration of today is concerned, they are, as the Honourable the Food Member put it, in a stage of experiment, and there is no greater condemnation of the manner in which the matter is dealt with in that during a period of some two to three years there have been three successors in this office. Can you imagine, Sir, that a problem of this magnitude, a problem of this importance, is merely handed from man to man because I believe, following the traditions of the steel frame so long as a man can affix to his name the letters I.C.S. as he sees himself he is fit for every subject on earth. That is the manner in which this problem has been tinkered with during the last three years, at least from the time it was perceived that it became a real acute problem in this country. It is a subject of the first and foremost importance to be considered. The Honourable the Food Member could not have selected a better *nom-de-plume* for himself. The Honourable the Food Member told us it is time to ring the curtain down on what has happened in the past in Bengal. I quite agree. It suits him to say so. It suits him to ask everybody else to think so, but can this country consider

[Mr Bhulabhai J. Desai]

the question today except in the background of what has actually happened? You have had many speeches from this side of the House regarding the condition of the provinces from the Members of the constituencies to which they belong. You have been told that the ration now—wherever there is any rationing at all—varies from anything like six ounces to a pound. In other words, on their own admission, the amount of food they are able to supply with all the Herculean efforts they have made cannot maintain body and soul together. I think it is commonly accepted now that for a man or a woman who is a manual labourer, it is not possible to live, at all events live with any hope of doing any work for which they are intended, for anything less than a pound of cereal. If that is so, it is somewhat of a hardship for this Government to tell us, 'Oh, consider the problem which I am putting before you. All I have been able to do, with all the expert advice in my command is to be able to show that the amount of ration varies from six ounces to 16'. If that is the situation in which we find ourselves today I do not think it requires any eloquent words to point out in what state we find ourselves in so far as this country is now concerned.

The next, Sir, we cannot forget the immediate background of this situation that during the last year there has been a famine of an unprecedented character in this country. It has now been followed by epidemics which are not merely, just an aftermath of that famine alone but the aftermath of the actual under-nutrition of this country during the last century. For indeed it is admitted by the spokesmen of Government themselves that 80 millions out of 400 millions are hungry in this land. It used to be also a commonly accepted fact that a large number of manual workers, landless labourers and the smaller farmers never get more than a meal a day, and still we are told that that is the only situation that has to be perpetuated in the future. That is not the problem that is not the way to look at the problem. But indeed, if the under-nutrition is to be carried on, apart from the mal-nutrition that prevailed during the period of the famine, it is quite obvious that to call it a food policy is to insult the world, insult ourselves and insult the very language itself. If the policy is that those who starve should continue to starve, do you call that a policy of the Government? Can you have a greater condemnation of the Government itself?

On the other hand it is now time—and the time came long ago, if there had been a popular Government in this country, the first great question in the scheme of any reconstruction whatever is to bring up the standard of life of the Indian man and woman in the street, in the factory and in the fields to a level certainly of two meals a day. And therefore it is that the problem of problems before the country is not merely a question of what is described as the Basic Plan. My Honourable friend took exception to what Mr Abdul Qayyum said as to what was the Basic Plan and I shall read out to you, Sir, from the papers circulated by the Department (page 9, paragraph 80) and this is their Basic Plan.

"In place of the formula still employed the Committee recommends that the following formula be adopted. Normal consumption requirements should be taken at the average of the estimated harvests of all the foodgrains over a five year period ending 31st March 1942 plus minus the imports and exports of the same period. Surpluses and deficits should be calculated on the basis of this normal consumption."

In other words the basic aim of those who are now in charge of this Department is to do no more than merely strike an average of the last five years. If that is their basic aim, they cannot expect us to congratulate them. My Honourable friend told the House that it was not a matter of self-complacency, it was not a matter of self-congratulation or, to be more accurate, self-advertisement. I would like him to choose what word he likes. The House will have to find out whether what he said coincides with any of those three words or all of them. But the fact remains that the Basic Plan is merely to reach what he calls the average of the last five years plus/minus the imports and exports, so that you do not know what it is on a particular item, because it varies with the desire to please our neighbours. We have to fight a war, we

have to be friendly with the Central part of Asia and even a little further off and therefore it is that whatever may happen to our children it does not matter but we have got to feed our friends and, as some people said, in a manner which does not commend itself I think even to those who set it. But we have to see that we create a market in the friendly countries. Those were the excuses given for the export of food from this country at a time when not only, at any rate, the same condition was prevailing here, namely, not one square meal a day for the average man but it was getting less and less from time to time. So that in the background of a famine, when more people died than people have died in many other countries in the actual fighting of the war itself, the sacrifice that the Indian people were made to make is something for which this Government is answerable. For indeed, not only have we fought in the fields of warfare contributing two million and more of men in the matter of depleting the Indian population, but also in the matter of war time food policy we have had to pay a price equivalent, (as we now know, nearly two million people died in famine and more than three million died in epidemics), so that if you have five million deaths to be accounted for by reason of this policy, you cannot afford to be complacent, unless you have reached the beatitude which the Honourable friends on the other side have done. Of course it is a beatitude which is their only shield, for, indeed, otherwise they could not face this House with the kind of problem which they have placed before us. Therefore it is that we are very sorry that the other side of the House cannot possibly ring down the curtain on the loss of five million lives so lightly as they seem to think. But whoever has thought of Indian life as life at all! They have always thought that so long as administration went on, so long as taxes were collected, so long as an enforced peace was reigning in this land, that was enough for the purposes of those who are ruling in this country. However, the time has come when the administration of this country must be in the hands of other persons who have a double claim to that situation, claim not merely because it is their inherent right but claim in order only that they may fulfil their responsibility to those for whom they labour and for whom they have got to labour. We cannot continue to have a Government which is entirely detached—they are completely detached. They have neither the popular support nor have the faith that they have any popular support or sympathy. They are carrying on an administration merely on paper as if in a kind of laboratory. That is the kind of administration that is bound to produce the results which we see today in this country.

You are all aware that the great Pusa Farm is no longer Pusa except in name. It has now been removed to somewhere in the neighbourhood of great Delhi. But what is the object of that experimental station, not merely the farm but all its little sisters spread out over the different parts of India. The object was that the yield in India of every kind of commodity that is produced should improve. You have here the figures officially authenticated and the result which you have today tells its own tale. "The crop of yield in pounds per acre: rice in India is 988, rice in China 2,433, rice in Japan 3,070, rice in the U.S.A. 1,680 and wheat 811 in India, 981 in China, 1,350 in Japan and 990 in the United States." We are at the lowest rung of the ladder in the matter of production in so far as the yield from our fields is concerned. During a period of one hundred years surely they were not waiting for a famine to come. It was their obvious duty to see to it that in so far at least as the stability of Indian life was concerned, even if they had done nothing in this country, they could at least have brought about one standard of life for the average man, so that when the day dawns and when he has had his labour and the sun goes down he would be able to say at all events, that he has had one standard of life given to him. Standard of life is a matter to be cared for everywhere. The standard of life in India is what you are condemned to. That is the standard here. As against that here is an extract which I shall read out from your own records. Dr MacLagan Gowrie, Director of Surveys in India, estimates that with large scale planning and in concert with the Central and Provincial Governments some 170 million acres of Barani land, i.e., land which is dependent on rains alone, could be brought into full cultivation

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In other words, the problem is not merely giving us figures as to what my friend travelling to Lahore was able to get from a little surplus province the problem is the real basic problem. The basic plan ought not to have been merely to cast the average of five years production. The basic plan ought to have begun years and years ago, to bring a larger quantity of land under cultivation and a larger yield per acre, if they had only taken the trouble to do so. So far as these famines are concerned, I have visited one in Surat and I find they are merely luxuries. They carry out what are called experiments but I have never seen one of them reach the cultivator of the district at all. I have always felt that if this Government was at all concerned even with just the bare life of the people, the bare actual nominal proper existence of the people, we would not have been in the condition in which we are today. It is perfectly absurd for any Government to come and say "Oh, yes, but we did not anticipate this, we did not anticipate the famine." If you could not anticipate what is likely to happen, all that you can do when famine comes is to hold up your hands and say the famine has come then why do you administer the country at all? Contrast that with the statement which Sir Henry French himself made on his departure from this country. The newspaper reporters asked him "Sir Henry, you have been here, you have made inquiries, did you find that there was a famine in this country costing millions of lives. Are you aware of that?" The only answer he gave is "Such a thing is unthinkable in Britain." Imagine a country that does not produce enough food to supply its own population, and that country is fighting a war. India is fighting under conditions more or less laid down by the other side. In that country, while fighting a war, it was unthinkable that any single man will die of hunger. That is the situation there after six years of war. That is the pronouncement of the expert, the Secretary of the Food Department there, who came and told us here. Yet it is actually taken by the other side as if the war was a sufficient excuse for millions of deaths either from famine and hunger or from the subsequent effects of it, namely, malnutrition and under-nutrition and, therefore, of epidemics. The prime duty, therefore, of the Government is not merely just to govern, merely to maintain the steel frame and take taxes—88 crores a year budget used to come before this body year after year, apart from the 300 crores that will come now, if not, 400 crores under the stress of the war, and we used to be told at the end of the year "Oh, 56 or 55 crores will be required for the army, and so much for the services, and as to the feeding of the children of this land, do what you like." That is how this administration has gone on, it is not a case of mere individual efficiency, it is not a case whether A is able or B is able, it is a case of entirely overhauling the manner in which the conditions of this country have got to be looked at, repaired and repaired immediately. Unless, therefore, the basic plan is that all available land which is cultivable is brought under cultivation and the increase of yield per acre is brought up to the standard—if not of Japan because it is three times ourselves but even twice what it is now—I have not the smallest doubt that such a government would deserve well of their country. But a government that merely tells us "We will find a little from here and a little from there, and if it cannot be moved and if you starve we are very sorry",—that is a kind of empty sympathy which has absolutely no value, it does no credit to the giver and gives very little solace to the taker.

I come then to the next part of the problem I hope and trust that the Honourable the Food Member, when he rises to answer, will be able to tell us what his basic plan is. I have read out the document which he has promulgated, and we have put forward what we believe ought to have been done by this Government years and years ago. In England I am told and I found it from their documents that were published three years before the war began, they began to conserve food, they made it a problem of their own; so that countries which do not grow food make additions to their food production, get from elsewhere, and make it a matter of their duty in order that their population may be maintained by them in the matter of physical and ethical morale. But whose

business is it in this country to care either for the physical or the ethical morale of the Indian people? It is that which is the root cause, it is that callousness and that indifference, because this Government has gone on to do other purpose except merely to govern from the top.

To give you an illustration of the way in which my Honourable friends look at this matter The Honourable Mr Griffiths got up and said—he delivered undoubtedly as we have always accepted it a very glib speech, but he was very particular about saying one thing, and I would like the House to examine that in order that you may see what is the mind behind it He said "Oh, yes, I agree your policy is good enough though your administration is bad and corrupt, but take care that the duty which the Central Government has undertaken, the task of feeding Calcutta—that should not be disturbed. So far as the yield of rice in Bengal is concerned, I do not see that the 36 lakhs of people in Calcutta are any different to the rest of the population of Bengal. But I know why this demand is being made. It is this, "It does not matter what happens to you and the rest in the rural areas of the country, but we who live and who trade and who have industrial factories in and around Calcutta, we must be first fed, whatever happens to the rest of the land." . . .

Mr. P. J. Griffiths (Assam European) On a point of personal explanation, my industrial constituency is in Assam—not in Calcutta.

Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai: So far as the Europeans are concerned, I hope my learned friend absolutely understands that this quibbling is to no purpose. I was not talking of Mr Griffiths personally—I suppose he will find food whenever he goes, he has not much difficulty about it. But the question was: Why was it he said it? I turned it over in my mind yesterday, why Calcutta was singled out for this particular purpose of a soft corner in the heart of the Central Government? Yes. It is of course the jute mills, it is the jute trade, it is the residence of the bulk of the Europeans who have very well prospered in this country—I do not object to their prospering, but I do object to any discriminatory treatment which they require for themselves and those by whose sweated labour they are probably hoping to make profits. It is that which has my objection. I have no objection to Calcutta as Calcutta, they are as good friends of mine as anybody else, but the point is that the rationing of the cities should have a better purpose than the purpose which one cannot help arriving at—not by any suspicious mind but by a process of reasoning. The reason why the cities are being rationed, and particularly the principal ones, is "Oh, yes, we are fighting the war, we have got our industries situated there—what they call the essential industries—round about a few cities. What will happen if the labourers were not fed and the factories came to a stand still?" So that, while I admire the policy, I do not have the least objection to it if the rural areas were equally well treated with the cities. Who objects to it as a mere matter of administrative convenience? But if there is anything more than mere administrative convenience, that the cities may be preserved along with the industries which feed the war, and the rural areas may look after themselves, that is a matter that I am not prepared to accept.

Hence it is that we come to the real cause of the problem, the problem of rationing the cities—on which one may congratulate one Member or the other—whoever devised it ought to know what happens in the rural areas today. Even in those areas which are supposed to be self-sufficient, if not deficient, even there the distribution is extremely poor. The administration is very much typified as Mr Griffiths frankly admitted. In other words, one Collector says "Oh, yes, my area has a certain amount of surplus, but I am administering this district, what do I care for the neighbouring one?" And the neighbouring one starves while this district probably has some sort of surplus which they can easily spare. But the actual reason is this, that in the matter of the administration of food policy and food distribution there is no policy at all. There is no policy of any real attempt to raise a greater yield, out of greater land and better land and better manured land and better cultivated land and better seed. That is the way to increase the

[Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai] yield, not by merely talking about it in newspapers or giving interviews for three or four days.

That cannot be achieved, but you come to distribution. I regret to find that so far as the movement of the crops of this country are concerned, even from a surplus to a deficit area, there is not that attention to their movements which the problem deserves. True, you can make the efficiency of the war as an excuse for it. I am told for example, and I take the figures from their own published records, that out of 100 trains, 60 trains now run on what is called military purpose. The other 40 carry goods for the civilian population and civilian traffic. That is the situation to which we have been reduced. In other words, the fact comes to this. Nobody says that you should not fight the war but if the efficient fighting of the war means that the rest of the country, at the end of the war, will find itself in a state of starvation and epidemic, you would have fought the war in vain so far as we are concerned, because it is no longer a mere political problem. You may very well remember—and I believe it is writ large even in British history—that hunger is the most potent instrument of revolution anywhere in the world and you are driving the country into the jaws of hunger. There are causes sometimes which rise into flames, go down and allay themselves but a permanent hunger of the kind that you have created in this land is something which ought to be eradicated, even at the cost of other things. Hence it is that we make the appeal that so far as the movement of crops, particularly food crops, is concerned, greater facilities ought to be given than we have hitherto been able to see. We find that the distribution in certain areas is so unequal, that we find that there is less there than what is sufficient for the people. You begin with that initial disadvantage but even with that disadvantage, what little remains is not evenly distributed. You can easily understand what happens.

That brings us to the third part of the amendment which we have put forward before this House—that is the corruption which is rampant in the matter of the administration of this policy. I agree that it is possible for my Honourable friends on the other side to say 'after all the subordinate officials in that particular hierarchy to which they belong are men drawn from this land and that, to that extent, the lower standard of morality is probably as much to blame as anything else'. It is true, but what answer is there to this question. You have undertaken to administer this country. You have taken away every initiative from everybody and having done that you now say 'Oh, the agents whom we employ being Indians, we do not have any blame to bear'. That will not do. The fact remains today that in the matter of the food policy, the inequalities of life that are experienced, the sufferings of the poor man that are to be seen, you cannot just merely wave your hand and say, in the language of my friend Mr. Griffiths, that there is not that patriotic sense. The remedy was entirely in the hands of Britain. I would not say 'in your hands'. If there had been in this country, among the men who administer this country, men who really represent the country, you would not find the spectacle that you find today. You have got men who are paid to do a job, who have not that anxiety for the well-being of the people that we should like to see. You cannot blame if that machinery goes into the condition into which it has gone now and hence it is that the whole system of Government in this country has got to be overhauled. We have said it so often in the past. I do not say it on any political ground whatever, nor on any racial ground. We are saying it on one and one ground alone—that as long as you do not have an administration in this country which responds to the people and to which the people respond, you may be quite certain that you will never be able to tackle the problem that has come before this House and you cannot solve one iota of it at all. Hence it is that we have moved this amendment. The Honourable the Food Member simply says he will consider it. We thank him very much for this sop and you will never give it

the consideration it deserves unless the pinch that is now felt by the poor man is transferred to you. The helplessness of the situation was well known, well appreciated and well felt—that the administration is in the hands of men whom we cannot influence to the extent and in the manner in which we should like to be able to do it, and it is true to say that whenever there is a famine, whenever there is any popular problem to be solved, the Government of the day, as it now exists, always fights shy of popular machinery. I have read some of the circulars of Government. They think, "These agitators will get into touch with the people, they will do good to them, they will bring about some equal distribution, will persuade those who otherwise may not be persuaded by us. The result will be that people will be with them and where shall we be." Hence it is that it is an insidious political idea that has often taken hold, at all events, of the district officials in this country. They will not allow any popular machinery to get into touch with the people at large. They do not want to use them, lest ultimately they may find themselves isolated in the condition in which they are and want to be. Hence it is, as I said, that we say that people must respond to them and they must respond to the people. Here there is a complete cleavage of that situation which has resulted in the condition in which we find ourselves. We cannot therefore forget the lesson that Bengal has taught us. We cannot forget the lesson—that in Malabar and other parts of that area you have got about a third of the ration that a human being can subsist on. We cannot forget all that. You can do something for the solution of this problem even while you are in office. Unless you enlist popular association and unless you enlist it in a wholehearted manner, without any mental reservation, you may be quite sure that the people will not respond to you. Unless you do that, as my Honourable friend here eloquently put it, the blood and the miseries and the death of thousands of these unfortunate people will be on your heads. We have not moved this amendment in any spirit of antagonism. We have moved this amendment with a view to helping you so that you may recognise the errors and the difficulties of the situation but if you dare to oppose it, let the House and the country decide it.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: Sir, one of the principles which I have adopted in replying to the debates of this kind is that truth must be told and faults must be owned, and I am going to answer to this debate on those lines.

[At this stage, Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdul Rahim) resumed the Chair.]

Sir, I am happy to say that although bouquets and coconuts have both been thrown at me during this debate, nobody has thrown rotten eggs at me.

Mr. Abdul Qayyum: They are very expensive 5 annas per egg.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I was going to say that perhaps because eggs have become too expensive. I do not say that the charges which have been made against us have stunned me or even dazed me. In fact, I feel that my main speech at the opening of the debate holds the field. I have not heard one definite criticism of the policy which I enunciated in that speech. There has been a great deal of criticism in matters of detail, but the policy remains unassailed and I am happy to say that the House as a whole recognises—I feel that way, I may be wrong—that the policy which the Government is now following is the right one.

An Honourable Member (from the Congress Benches): You are wrong.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I am very sorry to say that politics have been imported into this debate. I have kept food out of politics all the time that I have been in charge of the Department. I have been very anxious that no political considerations should be brought into food and I think I have succeeded to a large extent. I have received in places the co-operation from all sections of the people, people belonging even to the political institutions to which my friends over there belong. I have congratulated myself on this fact and I would expect this Assembly which consists of the chosen representatives to follow that example.

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The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: Now, Sir, I will deal with some of the main charges that have been made against us. The first charge which has been made is that the war caught us napping and that we were not prepared before the war broke out or soon after the war broke out to deal with the food situation as it might have arisen. I do not know whether I am expected to put up a defence on behalf of the Government of India tonight here. I have been in charge of the Food Department for only a little over 15 months, but I have looked up some of the records and I would like to give to the House some facts as to what happened in the beginning of the war.

The Government of India soon after the declaration of the war, that is to say, in September 1939, decided to impose price restrictions on all primary commodities. The provinces were delegated with emergency powers in this regard. In October 1939 a Conference was called by the Government of India to discuss this matter, especially with reference to food prices. This Conference was attended by the representatives of the Provincial Governments and the States, and amongst those attending the Conference were the representatives of the provinces where Congress Ministries functioned. This Conference unanimously opposed the imposition of any restriction on food either price control or anything else. The Congress in those days thought that the agriculturist must be allowed to make the most out of foodgrains and there should be no restriction on foodgrain prices. The Congress were very definite in their views. In my own province of the United Provinces, as an employer of labour, I myself approached the Congress Ministry to think of the future when there may be shortage of foodstuffs, but they sent me away saying that I had some ulterior motive in asking for restrictions to be imposed on foodgrains. They thought, at that time that there was no necessity to check the prices of foodgrains, like my friend Prof Ranga who is still of the same view. The Congress, who could have started price control in the beginning of the war, did not do it deliberately. It was their belief that any restriction imposed on prices would not be in the best interests of the country. I do not blame them for that. Nobody could foresee the circumstances which arose later, and I am sure that even if the Congress were in power for the next 12 months or 2 years, they would have continued with that policy. They were convinced that in the interests of the cultivators no lowering of prices and no restriction of prices of foodgrains was desirable. Therefore, I say that we were all caught napping.

The Government of India again called another Food Conference in January 1940. That was about four months after the declaration of the war and that Conference also unanimously resolved not to impose any price control on food grains.

An Honourable Member: Was the Congress there?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I am unable to say so. It is a pity they disappeared all too soon. What happened actually was that the price of foodgrains rose sharply soon after the declaration of war. Then because of the war, because of the course which the war had taken, prices became stabilised and then they started falling actually and they fell very nearly to the pre-war level.

An Honourable Member: Why blame the Congress?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I am not at all blaming the Congress. I am praising them. Let my Honourable friends disabuse their minds of this.

Now, Sir, nobody could have thought of imposing price control of food grains until actually the war situation became much worse and that was in December 1941 when Japan declared war. The real trouble in India so far as the food situation goes arose after the entry of Japan into the war. This contingency, I submit could not have been foreseen by anybody, whether it is this Government or it was the Congress Government or the Muslim League Government. However, I do not think it is much use crying over spilt milk. As I say none

of us was an astrologer and the course of the war could have been foreseen only perhaps by Nazi astrologers or the mad men of Tokyo. You and I could not have foreseen it. That being so, what did the Government of India do? As soon as the war against Japan was declared, and when we foresaw that there was a chance of our losing Burma rice, we called a conference and we imposed price control, and ever since then we have been working to get the better of the food problem in the country. We have made mistakes, I am free to confess. But so would you have if you were doing the job. Perhaps you would have made worse mistakes. Anybody tackling a problem of that kind and of that magnitude is bound to make mistakes. The wonder is that we have not made more mistakes. I think, Sir, that on the whole, we have done extraordinarily well. I remember, Sir, that last year this time when there was a food debate, nobody talked of chickens, poultry and eggs and those kinds of things or of cabbages. They only talked of rice and wheat. The fact that they have forgotten those cereals now and are today talking of protective foods, such as poultry, eggs, chicken and milk—I admit my Honourable friends are more interested in those things which contain vitamins—this change in their topic for discussion shows that really the food situation of India has vastly improved. There is no special shortage of foodgrains. I admitted in my original speech that there were local shortages in some parts but I think I have dealt comprehensively with the main deficit areas and the steps we have taken to relieve those shortages. But there is no major catastrophe anywhere however you may like to misrepresent things. Sir, the main proof of the success of our policy is that prices have fallen all round. Wheat and rice are the two main staple grains. As I told the House in my initial review, the prices of both are rapidly coming down.

An Honourable Member: With what rapidity?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: If the Honourable Member will read my original speech he will find the figures. I do not want to repeat them and thus take up the time of the House. Sir, it is gratifying that prices have gone down as they have done. There is no doubt about it that the situation in the country is much better. I do not say there is no room for further lowering of the price and to that extent, I am in full sympathy with the clause of one of the amendments. At the same time, I would like Honourable Members of the House to decide among themselves as to what is the right course in regard to prices to be adopted. Some of the Honourable Members have impressed upon me that we are trying to ruin the growers. Another set of Honourable Members have said that prices are still too high. Now, Sir, judging from the speeches made this afternoon and yesterday in the House, I have a feeling that we are somewhere in the right. In any case, Sir, I wish to assure the House that the Food Department are most anxious to fix prices which will be within the reach of the poorest consumer and will at the same time be not unfair to the producer, leaving him with a reasonable margin of profit. We realise and sympathise with those who stand up for the cultivator. We know he is the backbone of the country, but at the same time who must remember that there are poorer people in India than the cultivator who must be fed and it is the duty of the Food Department to feed them.

Sir, I will now turn to some remarks made by my very old friend Mr. Griffiths. I was very glad to hear his eloquent speech but I felt somehow that he mistook the forum, he thought he was speaking in the Bengal Legislative Assembly and that he was not Mr. Griffiths but Mr. Fazlul Huq. Anyhow we have taken a note of many of the points raised by him and I wish to assure him that they are mostly provincial and there is no difference of opinion between us and him in regard to them. The only point that I should like to enlighten him on is in connection with the "Grow More Vegetables" work which is being done by the Government of India. My Honourable friend Mr. Tyson has given you an account of what his department is doing in this direction. I am not going to enlarge on that but I should like to say that in the matter of control of prices of these articles my department is exercising every vigilance. Of course I admit that we started a little late in this, for the simple

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reason that all our energies were absorbed in the matter of foodgrains. We took first things first and we are now devoting our attention to this in right earnest and I should like to tell the House of what is being done by the Government of India. We fully realise its importance and we consider that the shortage and high prices are due very largely not so much to the army demand as to other contributory factors which exist at the present moment. Sir, the main difficulty in controlling the prices of these articles is the difficulty of securing control of production and stocks. They are not like foodgrains where we can procure large quantities and keep against a rise in the market. However, Sir, what the Government of India have done is that they have stimulated action by the Provincial Governments in close collaboration with the military authorities to take certain basic steps, such as, to survey and ascertain local resources, to increase and co-ordinate local production, divide the resources available, to allocate them to priority consumers, co-ordinate the demands and, above all, reduce or eliminate the element of competitive purchasing. For this purpose, Sir, we have formed area and provincial co-ordination committees on which the Centre, the Provinces and the defence forces are represented. In addition, in Southern India we have formed in consultation with the E, H and L Department a special committee to deal with cattle movement. Apart from these measures, whenever the Government of India receives information of the imposition of a ban which involves other provinces or States, we inquire into the merits of the case and endeavour to secure the necessary co-ordination of supplies by discussion and agreement. Finally, we are in constant correspondence with the provinces and States as to the importance of securing the distribution of non-cereal foods to those sections of the population which most need them. I am glad to say that I believe that Provincial Governments are now fully alive to these problems.

The case of Calcutta appears to be a special one. It is a pity that the Provincial Government of Bengal did not move in the matter early enough, but I wish to assure the House that they have now got down to the job and I hope the situation in Calcutta will soon be relieved. In addition, Sir, the House is probably aware that the Government of India have imported large quantities of tinned milk which has come as a boon to many places where women and children have been suffering from mal-nutrition.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: A mere drop in the ocean.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: No, it is a fair quantity. I admit it is not sufficient but still it is very useful. I have seen this milk distributed in areas of Cochin and Travancore with very good results.

Sir, I wish to assure the House that so far as protective foods are concerned, they are now our main anxiety and I hope this time next year Honourable Members will move on to something else and not take up protective foods.

An Honourable Member: You think the war will go on till then?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: The next thing that I should like to talk about is this question of feeding Calcutta. I know many Honourable Members are keenly interested in this problem but they are aware that last year we agreed to feed Calcutta in very special circumstances. There is an over-all shortage of rice in the country, there is not enough rice to go round and the needs of other parts of India have to be taken into account. Last year on account of the famine we decided that we should take Calcutta out of the hands of Bengal in order to restore confidence, and I am glad to say that we have done this successfully. The time is not yet ripe for announcing any definite decision on this matter because we are still collecting the figures. But my present feeling is that once we have received all the surplus and deficit figures from the provinces we should treat Bengal and Calcutta in the same way as any other province for the purposes of the basic plan, that is to say, if it is found that Bengal including Calcutta is deficit in any particular grain we shall try to meet the deficit, subject to our overall supplies. If it is surplus it is up to the Provincial Government to

get grain from within its own boundaries. That is my personal inclination. I do not say this because I have got anything against Bengal or Calcutta—

that has been our main concern during the last twelve months—

5 P. M. but I find that the needs of other parts of India are far greater. They have been neglected in the past because we had Bengal on our hands. I think it is time now that we did something for them. When I say this, I would like to correct a misstatement by my Honourable friend, Mr Bhulabhai Desai. He thought that the total scale of ration in Travancore or Cochin was six ounces. That is not so.

Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai: I took it from my friend, Mr Seth, who belongs to Malabar.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: It is not so. The ration there is 12 ounces out of which six ounces is rice. It has always been so.

An Honourable Member: That one cannot eat. It contains worms, pebbles and what not.

Maulana Zafar Ali Khan (East Central Punjab Muhammadan): Do you think that 12 ounces are sufficient?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I am not saying anything of the kind. That is why I am appealing to Bengal and to other parts of India to give us more rice to increase the ration of Travancore, Cochin and Malabar. I have just been there and I feel that the people have undergone terrible strain during the last three years and now it is time that we gave them more rice. The difficulty is that people in those areas will not eat either millets or even wheat. They are used only to rice, and so it is necessary for us to find more rice for them and as the Honourable Members would realize that the resources of the Government of India in rice are meagre.

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Salt: May I correct one discrepancy?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: Let me finish my speech. I am sorry, I cannot give way.

Another matter which has been dwelt upon is the question of rural areas. Last year people were anxious that even cities should not be rationed. Why cities have been chosen for rationing first is not because of any military or imperialistic reasons, but for the simple reason that cities don't grow foodgrains and the people there have got to get foodgrains from villages. In conditions of scarcity the cities starved. That is the only simple reason why we started with the idea of rationing in cities, and I am glad we have very largely succeeded. We have now under ration 42 millions of people and I think the number of towns is 420 as I said in my speech. This is no mean achievement for 12 months because at one time people were all opposed to rationing. They thought it was an imposition which they did not want to tolerate. I am glad now that people are asking for an extension of rationing.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Which people?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: People living in the cities. About rural rationing, as I have told the House, we are starting an experiment in Malabar. It is a very complicated and difficult matter. It is accompanied by compulsory rural procurement. The district which imposes rationing has got also to procure all the available supplies within the district and then if there is a deficit it has got to arrange additional supplies from outside. Malabar is the first district in British India where rural rationing is being started. I am watching the experiment with great interest and if it succeeds, as I hope it will, then I think it ought to be extended to other deficit areas. I have already suggested that Vizagapatnam should be taken next.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: How long will it take?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: In these things you cannot go too fast. It depends on the people themselves, it does not rest with the

[Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava.]

Government at all. The people have got to get used to it, and we have got to learn by experience what pitfalls we have to avoid. I do not wish to say more on this subject beyond assuring the House that the Food Department is alive to the needs of the rural areas and is doing whatever it can.

Another matter which has been prominently dealt with in the debate is the question of corruption of Government officials.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: Rampant everywhere.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I am not aware to what extent corruption is rampant but that there is some corruption I have no manner of doubt, but as the House knows how very difficult it is to eradicate corruption in such matters. The Government is most anxious to catch out all misdoers and I would ask for the assistance of the Members of this House in eradicating corruption. As Mr. Griffiths pointed out, it takes two to make corruption. The giver and the recipient are both to blame.

An Honourable Member: What about the intermediary?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: And I am sure the Members of this House will assist us in encouraging the giver to come to us and tell us of any such cases.

I have only one point more to deal with. Mr. Griffiths said that the performance of Great Britain in the matter of food had been so much better than that of India. I entirely agree with him but what are the comparative circumstances? They started on food administration there seven years ago.

Mr. P. J. Griffiths: Why did not your Government do so?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I have explained that you too never pointed out that there was any need for food control in India. You have been a Member of this House for many years. I do not seem to have read any of your speeches to that effect.

Mr. P. J. Griffiths: I pointed out six months before your Food Department was set up.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: We started off in right earnest on a co-ordinated policy 18 months ago or even less than that. Great Britain has got to cater for 40 millions of people. We have to cater for ten times that number. Great Britain has the advantage of organised trade channels for distribution. We have not got that advantage. Great Britain's problems of procurement are nothing, they get all the stuff supplied to them in convenient parcels which come from overseas.

Mr. P. J. Griffiths: No, no.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: Most of it. And every bit of agriculture, which is not much, is controlled. We have to secure our supplies from millions of small producers. Then, Sir, take into consideration the transport problem. The distances in Great Britain are nothing as compared to mine. Still these considerations have not made us lose heart. We have gone on and done whatever we could. Sir, I am glad to be able to say that Sir Henry French when he visited this country paid us a great compliment.

Mr. Satya Narayan Sinha: How much rations did he get?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: on what we had been able to achieve within fifteen months. Sir, he came as a partial critic. His opinion is worth something.

Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai: Did he dine with you?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I think I have dealt with many of the points which were raised in the debate, which call for a reply from me. There is one point left in the speech of Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan.

when he referred to Nepal paddy purchases. I think he has got his facts all upside down

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: Why didn't you challenge me then so that I could have given you a reply

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: He had better verify them
(Interruptions from Muslim League Benches)

It is not correct to say that the agent who bought the rice bought it at a price above that arranged for by the Bengal Government. He did not do it.

Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi (Meerut Division, Muhammadan Rural): When was the enquiry made?

Sir Syed Raza Ali (Cities of the United Provinces, Muhammadan Urban): At what price did he buy? At the same price?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I cannot give all the prices from memory

(Several Honourable Members interrupted)

He bought at the price fixed by the Bengal Government. That is the main basic fact.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan (Agra Division, Muhammadan Rural): How was this calculation made?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I do not know. As regards loss by deterioration the assertions are much exaggerated.

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: What are the true facts?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: There is no question of not holding the agent to the terms of his contract. That again is not correct.

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: What are the correct facts?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: Some loss inevitably takes place. I have not the exact quantity.

(Several Honourable Members again interrupted)

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Order, order.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: But the way it has been put is not right.

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: He does not tell us the right way and still he says it is wrong!

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: Well, I have told you the right facts.

Some one raised the question of Canadian wheat not being fit for human consumption. I do not know whether he has tried it.

Mr. Manu Subedar: I have tried it and I have suffered by it.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: But palates differ. I have tried it and I like it. It is very nice. In any case I tell you a sample of this wheat was approved by the Bombay Provincial Advisory Committee who I believe tested it. They must have cooked it and eaten it and they were quite satisfied with it and I have the authority to say that Sir Purnahomdas Thakurdas found it absolutely right. My friend Mr. Manu Subedar might make further enquiries into the matter.

Mr. Manu Subedar: You were too weak. You could not resist His Majesty's Government.

Mr. Satya Narayan Sinha: You can stomach anything!

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: A number of amendments have been moved. I will now deal with them. By the trend of the speeches they have not traversed my main statements with regard to the policy and achievements of the Department of Food and yet it is thought fit to condemn us for a number of things of which we are not guilty on the admission of the other side of the House. Not a word has been said about the inadequacy of

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Transport I am glad to say that there is complete understanding between the Food Department and the War Transport Department and thanks to my Colleague on my left, things are working very well indeed. No Member had one word to say against the War Transport Department and yet in one of the amendments that Department has been brought in (Interruptions) I would appeal to the House not to be carried away by emotion or by

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum . logic or good sense!

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: First of all I would deal with the amendment of Dr Zia Uddin. I regret that Government cannot accept the amendment as it stands. It must vote against it although some of the points which the Mover has advocated already form part of the Government policy. On the specific points raised by the Honourable Member the attitude of the Government of India is as follows. The Government do not admit that no effective measures for growing more rice have been adopted. Production is a matter for the Education, Health and Lands Department who have already dealt with the details of the Grow More Food campaign, particularly the question of increasing the production of rice. The House is however aware that a great deal has been done by the Army already in order to reduce its demands on the stocks available for the civil population in the establishment of poultry, cattle and vegetable farms.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: In what portion of the country?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: The Food Department particularly agree with the Honourable Member in his advocacy of steps to utilise the resources of Assam for growing more rice and this is one of the things which I have been chasing for some time. This problem is under active consideration between the Food Department and the Department of Education, Health and Lands and certain proposals will shortly be made to the Government of Assam.

Now with regard to the control of prices and the black market. The Food Department is at one with the Honourable Member in believing that the control of stocks is an essential feature for the control of prices. The aim which Government has effected in its procurement machinery in the past year, combined with the assurance which it has had of imports, has enabled the Provincial Governments to build up stocks with the result, as has been amply shown, that confidence has been restored and prices, particularly in the Eastern Region, have shown a marked and continued fall. I take note of the particular methods which the Honourable Member has advocated for the control of individual stocks. I may say that it is the policy of the Government of India to stimulate Provincial Governments and Administrations to improve both the procurement machinery and their administration of the Foodgrains Control Order to the stage, where they have both effective knowledge of the location of stocks and the means of controlling or acquiring those stocks if required. That also deals with the objection raised by my friend Mr Griffiths. As regards statistics, I agree with the Honourable Member that the improvement of statistical information is an essential part of the improvement of food control. We already have a scheme for distribution from surplus, to deficit areas, on the lines advocated by the Honourable Member. No food grain can move except on Government account and Government's view is that the necessary priorities for the transport of food grains already exist. We are, however, constantly watching the situation in consultation with the War Transport Department and wherever we find that the priorities allotted are insufficient we shall not hesitate to press for such higher priorities as may be necessary. It is already the policy to fix maximum prices for the whole of India by statute. We have proceeded a very long way towards this goal. In the case of rice we have not yet been able to realise an all-India maximum on a single all-India basis. We hope to be able to do so in the course of the next twelve months.

We fully agree with the Honourable Member in the desire to associate non-official Members of the Legislature with the Food Administration at every stage. So far as the Centre is concerned the House realises that I have established a Central Food Advisory Committee and Price Advisory Committee in addition to the Standing Committee of the Legislature, whose assistance and advice I have constantly sought and gratefully acknowledged.

As for rationing, I am afraid that I cannot agree with the Honourable Member that rationing should be confined to towns with a population of 150,000 or over. Our policy first of all is to extend rationing to all towns with a population of 100,000 and then to extend it where necessary to smaller towns. My information is that wherever rationing has been introduced, in spite of complaints which we have received on certain aspects of rationing, there is developing a general public demand not only for the extension of rationing so far as food is concerned but for its extension to other commodities outside the range of food, pure and simple.

I agree with the Honourable Member in deploring wastage of food wherever it has occurred and could have been prevented. At the same time, we must acknowledge the great difficulties which Provincial Governments have to face in setting up the organisation necessary to prevent this wastage.

Sir, this is as far as Dr Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad's amendment goes.

As regards Prof Ranga's amendment, I am unable to accept it, as it stands, although I have very considerable sympathy with many of the points which the Mover seeks to make. These points are already engaging our attention and I will not give the detailed facts, which I have already stated in my speech.

Then, Sir, there is an amendment moved by my friend Mr Pasak Sait. Government do not accept this amendment and must oppose it. The Food Department does not accept that the defects pointed out by the Mover existed in the working of the Food Department at the Centre. I have stated the true facts in my speeches and I cannot accept a censure of that kind. In fact that censure is not justified at all by the speeches made in this House or by the mover of the amendment himself. His speech was appreciative of the work which has been done by the Food Department. That being so, I think it is a little hard that an amendment of that kind should be moved.

Sir, as regards Mr Chatopadhyaya's amendment, we are in general sympathy with the object of it but we cannot accept it as it stands. The facts show that a very considerable improvement has been effected in the Bengal situation and the Bengal Government is already taking advantage of cooperative societies.

As regards Mr Avnashilingam Chettiar's amendment I have considerable sympathy with many of the points which the Mover seeks to make but I am unable to accept the amendment.

Before I sit down I would like to thank my friends, the non-official Members of this House, for the many valuable suggestions that they have made. As was assured by Dr Rao, we shall examine every one of them and give our best consideration to them. In fact what I detected was that many of the criticisms were levelled not so much against the Centre as against certain acts of omission and commission of the Provinces.

I take this opportunity of acknowledging once again the continued guidance and constructive suggestions which I have received from the Honourable Members. Whatever may be our differences in matters of detail, our main objective is one and common—Food for all, on which the life of the community depends. Whatever Government may be in power, it cannot have any other objective. Politics as such are entirely outside this sacred sphere. So let us bend our energies to real, honest constructive work for the common good. Without your support, the support of the chosen representatives of people like yourselves, my Department cannot achieve anything worthwhile. With your help nothing is impossible, I am quite sure of that. We have

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set a great and noble task in an hour of unprecedented crisis in the history of our nation. Let that task be not marred by political rivalries. That is my wish and fervent appeal.

Mr. President. (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) Order order.

Maulvi Syed Murtuza Sahib Bahadur (South Madras Muhammadan) On a point of information, Sir, I want to be informed on certain points. Neither the Honourable Member nor Mr Tyson have dwelt upon the very important question raised in the debate, that is, regarding the line system in Assam. I want to be informed about it.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) Order, order. The Honourable Food Member has made his reply.

The motion moved was

"That the food situation in India be taken into consideration."

The first amendment is in the name of Dr Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Sir, I do not press it to division.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) Does the Honourable Member wish to withdraw it?

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Yes, Sir.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) Has the Honourable Member the leave of the House to withdraw his amendment?

Honourable Members: Yes, yes.

The amendment was, by leave of the Assembly, withdrawn.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) The next one is in the name of Mr Essak Sait. It is

"That the following be added at the end of the motion

"and having considered the same, this House is of opinion that the co-ordination of procurement and distribution between surplus and deficit areas is entirely wanting; that the transport in that behalf is not adequate and timely (even considering the priority for war purposes) and that the prices are beyond the means of the mass of the poor in this country, and that the steps taken by Government for exercising vigilance over eradication of corruption among those engaged by Government in the matter of the execution of food work are poor and ineffective."

The Assembly divided

AYES—61.

Abdul Qaiyum, Mr
Abdullah Mr H M
Ahsan, Mr Muhammad
Azhar Ali, Mr Muhammad.
Banerjee, Dr P N
Chandavarkar, Sir Vithal N.
Chattopadhyaya, Mr Amarendra Nath.
Chettiar, Mr T S Avinashilingam
Chetty, Mr Sami Venkatachalam
Choudhury, Mr Muhammad Hussain
Chunder, Mr N C
Daga, Seth Sheodass
Dani, Mr Ananga Mohan
Datia, Mr Akhil Chandra
Deasi, Mr Bhulabhai J
Deshmukh, Dr G V
Deshmukh, Mr Govind V
Essak Sait, Mr H A Sathar H
Fazl-i-Haq Piracha, Khan Bahadur Shaikh.
Gauri Shankar Singh, Mr
Ghasuuddin, Mr M
Gupta, Mr K S
Habibur Rahman, Dr
Hans Raj, Raizada
Hegde, Sri K. B Jinaraja
Hosmani, Mr S K
Ismail Khan Hajee Chowdhury Muhammad
Jinnah, Mr M A
Joshi, Mr, N M
Kailash Bihari Lall, Mr
Kazmi, Qazi Muhammad Ahmad.

Krishnamachari, Mr T T
Lahiri Chaudhury, Mr D K
Lakhichand, Mr Rajmal
Lalchand Navalrai, Mr
Liaquat Ali Khan, Nawabzada Muhammad.
Mangal Singh, Sardar.
Manu Subedar, Mr
Mitra, Pandit Shambhudayal
Murtuza Sahib Bahadur, Maulvi Syed
Naidu, Mr G Rangiah
Nauman, Mr Muhammad
Neogy, Mr K C
Pande, Mr Badri Dutt
Raghubir Narain Singh, Choudhri
Ramayan Prasad, Mr
Ranga, Prof N G
Raza Ali, Sir Syed
Reddier, Mr K Sitarama
Sant Singh, Sardar
Satyanarayana Moorthy, Mr A
Sham Lal, Lala
Saddique Ali Khan, Nawab
Siddiquee, Shaikh Rafiuddin Ahmad
Sinha, Mr Satya Narayan
Sri Prakasa, Mr
Subbarayan, Shrimati K Radha Bai
Umar Ali Shah, Mr
Yamin Khan, Sir Muhammad
Zafar Ali Khan, Maulana
Zia Uddin Ahmad, Dr Sir

NOES-46

Ahmad Nawaz Khan, Major Nawab Shr.
 Ambodkar, The Honourable Dr B. R.
 Anthony, Mr Frank R.
 Azizul Huque, The Honourable Sir M
 Benthall, The Honourable Sir Edward.
 'Aroo, Sir Olaf.
 Chapman-Mortimer, Mr T
 Chatterjee, Lt Col Di J C
 Daga, Seth Sunder Lall.
 Dalal, Dr Sir Ratanji Dinshaw
 Dalpat Singh, Sardar Bahadur Captain,
 Griffiths, Mr P J
 Gwilt, Mr E. L. C
 Habibur Rahman, Khan Bahadur Sheikh
 Haider, Khan Bahadur Shamsuddin
 Imam, Mr Saiyid Haider
 Inskip, Mr A O
 Ismael Alikhan, Kunwer Hajee
 James, Sir F E
 Jawahar Singh, Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sir
 Joshi, Mr D S
 Kamaluddin Ahmad, Shams ul-Ulema
 Khare, The Honourable Dr N B
 Krishnamoorthy, Mr E S A

Kushal Pal Singh, Raja Bahadur
 Lalljee, Mr Hosenbhooy A
 Lawson, Mr C P
 Miller, Mr C C
 Muazzun Sahib Bahadur, Mr Muhammad
 Mudahar, The Honourable Dewan Bahadur
 A Ramaswami
 Mudra, The Honourable Sir Francis
 Ramsman, The Honourable Sir Jeremy
 Rao, Dr V K R V
 Richardson, Sir Henry
 Roy, The Honourable Sir Asoka
 Sethna, Mr D P
 Shahban, Khan Bahadur Mian Ghulam Kadir
 Muhammad
 Herbert, Mr W H
 Iva Raj, Rao Bahadur N
 Spence, Sir George
 stava, The Honourable Sir Jwala Pra-
 id
 Stokes, Mr H G
 Sultan Ahmed, The Honourable Sir
 Thakur Singh, Capt
 " --- Mr J D

The motion was adopted

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) The question is

"That the following be added at the end of the
 'and having considered the same, this House is of opinion that grain prices
 places are uneconomical and that the failure of Government to sub-
 sidize the food consumption of the people is both in towns and villages hitting
 hard both the producers and consumers."

The Assembly divided

AYES-58

Abdul Qayyum, Mr
 Abdullah Mr H M
 Ahau, Mr Muhammad
 Ahar Ali, Mr Muhammad.
 Banerjee, Di P N
 Chettiar, Mr T S Avinashilingam
 Chetty, Mr Sani Venkatachalam
 Choudhury, Mr Muhammad Hussain
 Chunder, Mr N C
 Daga, Seth Sheodass
 Dam, Mr Ananga Mohan
 Datta, Mr Akhil Chandra
 Debi Mr Bhulabhai J
 Deshmukh, Dr G V.
 Deshmukh, Mr Govind V
 Essak Sait, Mr H A Sathar H
 Farid-Haq Piracha, Khan Bahadur Shaikh.
 Gauri Shankar Singh, Mr
 Ghiasuddin, Mr M.
 Gupta, Mr K S.
 Habibur Rahman, Dr.
 Hans Raj, Raizada
 Hegde, Sri K B Jinaraja.
 Hoemani, Mr S K
 Ismail Khan, Hajee Chowdhury Muhammad
 Jinnah, Mr M A
 Kailash Bihari Lall, Mr
 Kazmi, Qazi Muhammad Ahmad
 Krishnamachari, Mr T T

Lahiri Choudhury, Mr D K
 Lakhichand, Mr Rajmal
 Lakhand Navalrai, Mr
 Liaquat Ali Khan, Nawabzada Muhammad
 Mangal Singh, Sardar
 Manu Subedar, Mr
 Misra, Pandit Shambhudayal
 Murtaza Sahib Bahadur, Maulvi Syed
 Naidu, Mr G Rangiah
 Nauman, Mr Muhammad
 Pando, Mr Badri Dutt
 Raghunath Narain Singh, Choudhri
 Ramayan Prasad, Mr
 Ranga, Prof N G
 Raza Ali, Sir Syed
 Reddhar, Mr K Sitarama
 Sant Singh, Sardar
 Satyanarayana Moorty, Mr A
 Sham Lal, Lala
 Siddique Ali Khan, Nawab
 Siddique, Shaikh Rafiuddin Ahmad
 Sinha, Mr Satya Narayan
 Siva Raj, Rao Bahadur N
 Sri Prakasa Mr
 Subbarayan, Shrimati K Radha Bai
 Umar Ali Shah, Mr
 Yamin Khan, Sir Muhammad
 Zafar Ali Khan, Maulana
 Zia Uddin Ahmad, Dr Sir

NOES—46

Ahmad Nawaz Khan, Major Nawab Sir.
 Ambedkar, The Honourable Dr B. R.
 Anthony, Mr Frank R.
 Azizul Huque, The Honourable Sir M.
 Benthall, The Honourable Sir Edward
 Caroe, Sir Olaf.
 Chandavarkar, Sir Vithal N.
 Chajman-Morime, Mr. T.
 Chatterjee, Lt-Col Dr J. C.
 Daga, Seth Sunder Lall.
 Dalal, Dr Sir Ratanji Dimshaw.
 Delpat Singh, Sardar Bahadur Captain.
 Griffiths, Mr P. J.
 Gwilt, Mr E. L. C.
 Habibur Rahman, Khan Bahadur Sheikh.
 Hardar, Khan Bahadur Shamsuddin.
 Imam, Mr Saiyid Haidai.
 Inskip, Mr A. C.
 Ismaili Ali Khan, Kunwer Hajee.
 James, Sir F. E.
 Jawahar Singh, Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sir.
 Jehangir, Sir Cowasjee.
 Joshi, Mr D. S.
 Kamaluddin Ahmad, Shams-ul-Ulema.
 Khare, The Honourable Dr N. B.

The motion was adopted.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) The next Amendment is in the name of Mr Chettiar.

Mr. T. S. Aymashulingam Chettiar (Salem and Coimbatore *cum* North Arcot. Non-Muhammadan Rural) I do not press it. I want to withdraw it.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) Has the Honourable Member leave of the House to withdraw his amendment?

Honourable Members: No, no.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) The question is

"That the following be added at the end of the motion

"having considered the same, this House is of opinion (1) that the prices fixed for paddy and other food grains should be revised in view of the present circumstances, and in considering the level of prices of food grains appropriate to a particular area, regard should be had to (a) the cost of articles entering into the cultivators' cost of production; (b) cost of articles entering into his standard of life and (c) cost of cultivation of marginal lands, as it obtains at present cost levels,

(2) that having in view the enormous amount of corruption created by the fact that revenue and other officials have been entrusted with the duty of issuing licences for purchasers and distributors of paddy and rice wheat and other food grains, these licences in the districts and taluks shall be issued on the advice of the advisory board, attached to the districts and taluks and to cooperative societies wherever available,

(3) that peasants shall be given the choice of supplying food grains either in the shape of paddy or rice, wheat or atta and thus be entitled to eliminate the profiteering now being made by millers, and

(4) that every effort be made to review and reduce the margins of profits now allowed to various agencies of middlemen,

(5) that the responsibility of the Central Government should not cease with more allotment of food grains but it should extend to seeing that their allotments reach the deficit or needy areas and that no invidious distinction shall be made in distributing rations between civilian population and those who are the relatives of people in the armed forces and also between the urban and rural peoples, and that all needy peoples, whether living in towns or villages be granted equal rations,

(6) that in cases of districts experiencing great scarcity, district-wise and equitable rationing shall be organised,

(7) and that to meet the food deficit in this country, apart from the measures taken to tide over the present difficulties, other measures of a permanent character such as that of new irrigation schemes, manufacture of fertilizers, fixation and maintenance of minimum prices of food grains shall also be taken up as soon as possible."

The motion was negatived.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) The next Amendment is that of Mr Chattopadhyaya. The question is:

"That the following be added at the end of the motion:

Krishnamoorthy, Mr. E. S. A.
 Kushal Pal Singh, Raja Bahadur.
 Laljee, Mr. Hooseinbhooy A.
 Lawson, Mr. C. P.
 Miller, Mr. C. C.
 Muazzam Sahib Bahadur, Mr. Muhammad.
 Mudalair, The Honourable Dewan Bahadur.
 Sir A. Ramaswami.
 Mudie, The Honourable Sir Francis.
 Raisman, The Honourable Sir Jeremy.
 Rao, Dr V. K. R. V.
 Richardson, Sir Henry.
 Roy, The Honourable Sir Asoka.
 Sethna, Mr. D. P.
 Shahban, Khan Bahadur Mian Ghulam Kadir.
 Muhammad.
 Shobert, Mr. W. H.
 Spence, Sir George.
 Srivastava, The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad.
 Stokes, Mr. H. G.
 Sultan Ahmed, The Honourable Sir.
 Thakur Singh, Capt.
 Tyson, Mr. J. D.

"In view of the fact that the system of procurement and distribution of essential food-stuff adopted by the Food Department of the Central Government has not succeeded so far to alleviate the difficulties and inconveniences of consumers in Bengal and in other affected provinces as well, the co-operative system of production, distribution and consumption be introduced and adopted in the affected provinces specially in Bengal by setting up Co-operative Producer, Distributor and Consumers' Society registered under the Co-operative Societies Act."

The motion was negatived

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) The question now is that the following motion be adopted:

"That the food situation in India be taken into consideration

(a) and having considered the same, this House is of opinion that the co-ordination of procurement and distribution between surplus and deficit areas is entirely wanting, that the transport in that behalf is not adequate and timely (even considering the priority for war purposes) and that the prices are beyond the means of the mass of the poor in this country; and that the steps taken by Government for exercising vigilance over eradication of corruption among those engaged by Government in the matter of the execution of food work are poor and ineffective

(b) and having considered the same, this House is of opinion that grain prices in most places are uneconomically low for producers and that the failure of Government to subsidize the food consumption of the poorest consumers both in towns and villages is hitting hard both the producers and consumers of food"

The motion was adopted.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday, the 10th November, 1944

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Friday, 10th November 1944

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber of the Council House at Eleven of the Clock, Mr President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) in the Chair

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(a) ORAL ANSWERS

REPORT ON TOUR OF MR SARGENT IN THE UNITED KINGDOM

†216. *Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: (a) Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please lay before the House the account of the tour of Mr Sargent in the United Kingdom?

(b) What changes, if any, are Government contemplating to introduce in the educational system of this country?

(c) Are Government contemplating to bring a Bill for discussion in the Assembly? If so, what?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) No formal account of Mr Sargent's deputation will be prepared but he will report separately on various matters with which he dealt during his tour, as listed in a statement laid on the Table of the House

(b) The lines of Post War Educational Development in India which Government are considering are those embodied in the report of the Central Advisory Board of Education, of which there are copies in the Library

(c) Not at present

Statement

Matters dealt with by Mr. Sargent during his recent deputation to the United Kingdom includes—

(1) Attendance as observer on behalf of India at the Conferences of Allied Ministers of Education, which were held in London during the summer under the Presidency of the British Minister of Education

(2) Discussions with the India Office, the High Commissioner for India, Universities and other Institutions for Higher Education regarding the best arrangements for the future admission of Indian students in view of the conditions likely to obtain at the end of the war

(3) Exploring with parties concerned means of strengthening cultural relations between learned bodies in Great Britain and this country, including the following up of certain suggestions made by Prof. A. V. Hill during his recent visit to India

(4) Discussing with the appropriate Authorities the possibility of securing training in Great Britain for teachers and other persons who may be deputed for that purpose by the Central and Provincial Governments in the event of its being decided to proceed with the Scheme for Post-war Educational Development prepared by the Central Advisory Board of Education and now under consideration by the Government of India

Mr Sargent also took the opportunity of his visit to England to discuss with persons there a number of other outstanding educational matters

COMMUNAL COMPOSITION IN HIGHER POSTS OF THE LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT

217. *Sardar Sant Singh: (a) Will the Honourable the Law Member please state the number of posts carrying monthly salaries of Rs 500 and above in his Department including the Income Tax Appellate Tribunals in each Province?

(b) How many of these posts are held by (i) Europeans, (ii) Anglo-Indians (iii) Hindus, (iv) Muslims, (v) Sikhs, and (vi) others?

The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy: (a) and (b) A statement giving the required information is laid on the table

Statement

(a) The total number is 33, comprising 22 posts in the Secretariat and 11 in the Income-tax Appellate Tribunal (5 in Bombay and 2 each in Madras, Bihar and the United Provinces)

(b) (i) four; (ii) three; (iii) twenty; (iv) four; (v) none, (vi) two

†Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner being absent

COMMUNAL COMPOSITION IN HIGHER POSTS OF OFFICES UNDER THE COMMERCE DEPARTMENT

218. *Sardar Sant Singh: (a) Will the Honourable the Commerce Member please state the number of posts carrying monthly salaries of Rs. 500 to Rs. 750, Rs. 750 to Rs. 1,000, Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 1,500 and Rs. 1,500 and above in his Department including (i) office of the Economic Adviser to the Government of India, (ii) the Department of Commercial Intelligence, and Statistics, (iii) the Trade Marks Registry, Bombay, (iv) the office of the Chief Controller of Imports, (v) the office of the Controller of Enemy Firms and Enemy Trading and Custodian of Enemy Property, and (vi) the office of the Tea Controller of India?

(b) How many posts under each category are held by (i) Europeans, (ii) Anglo-Indians, (iii) Hindus, (iv) Muslims, (v) Sikhs, and (vi) others?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) and (b) A statement giving the required information is placed on the table of the House.

Name of Department or Office	Monthly Salary	Number of posts	Number of posts held by					Others
			Euro peans	Anglo Indians	Hindus	Muslims	Sikhs	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1 Commerce Department	Rs. 500 to Rs. 750 Rs. 750 to Rs. 1,000 Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 1,500 Rs. 1,500 and above	9 1 5 6		2	7 1 4 5	1 1 1 1		
2 Office of the Economic Adviser to the Government of India.	Rs. 500 to Rs. 750 Rs. 750 to Rs. 1,000 Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 1,500 Rs. 1,500 and above	2 1 1 1			1 1 1 1	1 1 1 1		
3 Department of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics	Rs. 500 to Rs. 750 Rs. 750 to Rs. 1,000 Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 1,500 Rs. 1,500 and above	1 1 1 1	1	..	1 1 1 1			
4 Trade Marks Registry, Bombay	Rs. 500 to Rs. 750 Rs. 750 to Rs. 1,000 Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 1,500 Rs. 1,500 and above	1 1 1 1		..	1 1 1 1			4 (Parses)
5 Office of the Chief Controller of Imports, New Delhi	Rs. 500 to Rs. 750 Rs. 750 to Rs. 1,000 Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 1,500 Rs. 1,500 and above	3 1 1 2		1	1 1 1 1	1 1 1 1		1
6 Office of the Controller of Enemy Farms and Enemy Trading and Custodian of Enemy Property Bombay	Rs. 500 to Rs. 750 Rs. 750 to Rs. 1,000 Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 1,500 Rs. 1,500 and above	1 1 1 1	1 1 1 1					
7 Office of the Tea Controller for India— (a) Calcutta	Rs. 500 to Rs. 750 Rs. 750 to Rs. 1,000 Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 1,500 Rs. 1,500 and above	2 1 1 2	1 1 1 2	..	1 ..	1 ..		
(a) Coimbatore	Rs. 500 to Rs. 750 Rs. 750 to Rs. 1,000 Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 1,500 Rs. 1,500 and above	2 1 1 2	2 1 1 2			..		
(a) Cochin	Rs. 500 to Rs. 750 Rs. 750 to Rs. 1,000 Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 1,500 Rs. 1,500 and above	1 1 1 1	1 1 1 1		..	..

Sardar Sant Singh: May I ask the Honourable Member if he can give me the percentage of the Sikh representation in any of these services?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I have not had time to calculate the percentage, but I will supply it to the Honourable Member.

COMMUNAL COMPOSITION IN HIGHER POSTS OF OFFICES UNDER INDUSTRIES AND CIVIL SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT

219. *Sardar Sant Singh: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies please state the number of posts carrying monthly salaries of Rs 500 to Rs 750, Rs 750 to Rs 1,000, Rs 1,000 to Rs 1,500 and Rs 1,500 and above in his Department including (i) the office of the Controller of Coffee, (ii) the office of the Paper Production Commissioner, (iii) the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research and its Director's office, (iv) the office of the Steel Controller, (v) the office of the Rubber Production Commissioner, (vi) the office of the Textile Commissioner, and (vii) the office of the Controller General of Civil Supplies?

(b) How many posts under each category are held by (i) Europeans, (ii) Anglo-Indians, (iii) Hindus, (iv) Muslims, (v) Sikhs, and (vi) others?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: A statement is laid on the table of the House

Statement

Grado	Total number of posts in each grade	Anglo-Indians	Hindus	Muslims	Sikhs	Others	Remarks
1	2	4	5	6	7	8	9
<i>Department of Industries and Civil Supplies</i>							
500-750	14		9	3	1	1	Indian Christian.
750-1,000	6	1	3	1			
1,000-1,500	10	3	3	3			
1,500 and above	5	1	2	2			Parses.
Total	34	4	17	9	1	2	
<i>(i) Office of the Controller of Coffee</i>							
500-750							
750-1,000	1		1				Indian Christian.
1,000-1,500							
1,500 and above							
Total	2		1			1	
<i>(ii) Office of the Paper Production Commissioner*</i>							
500-750	1			1			* Transferred to the Department of Supply from 1st April 1944. Deputy Director of Paper.
750-1,000							
1,000-1,500	2	2					
1,500 and above							{ 1 Director of Paper 1 Deputy Director of Paper.
Total	3	2		1			
<i>(iii) The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research and its Director's Office†</i>							
500-750	6		5	1			† Transferred to the Department of Planning and Development from 18th August 1944.
750-1,000	1		1				
1,000-1,500	5		4	1			
1,500 and above							
Total	12		10	2			

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
(iv) Office of the steel Controller (Now Civil Steel Licensing Authority)									
500—750	1			1				
750—1,000	Parsee
1,000—1,500	1			..			1	
1,500 and above	
Total		2			1			1	
(v) Office of the Rubber Production Commissioner									
500—750	1			1			..	
750—1,000	
1,000—1,500	Indian Christian
1,500 and above	1			..			1	
Total		2			1			1	
(vi) Office of the Textile Commissioner									
500—750	20			9	4		7*	4.5 Parsee, 1 Jew, 1 Indian Christian
750—1,000	13	2		3	2		1†	Indian Christian
1,000—1,500	12	1		5	5		1†	
1,500 and above	8	4		4	..		—	
Total		53	7		25	11		9	
(vii) Office of the Controller General of Civil Supplies									
500—750	9	1		6	2		..	
750—1,000	1	..		1	..		..
1,000—1,500	5	..		2	3		..	
1,500 and above	8	1		4	2		1	
Total		23	2		13	7		1	
(viii) Office of the Paper Controller, India†									
500—750	2			1	1	1		† Created from 15th May 1944.
750—1,000			
1,000—1,500	2	1		..	..		1	1 Parsee
1,500 and above		1	
Total		5	1		1	1	1	1	
GRAND TOTAL		136	16	1	79	31	3	16	

COMMUNAL COMPOSITION IN HIGHER POSTS OF OFFICES UNDER THE FOOD DEPARTMENT

220. *Sardar Sant Singh: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Food please state the number of posts carrying monthly salaries of Rs 500 to Rs 750, Rs 750 to Rs. 1,000, Rs 1,000 to Rs. 1,500 and Rs. 1,500 and above in (i) the Food Department (ii) the Directorate General of Food, (iii) the office of the Sugar Controller of India, (iv) the Regional Food Commissioners, and (v) the Group Liaison Officers (Food)? What number of posts is held under each category, by (i) Europeans, (ii) Anglo-Indians, (iii) Hindus, (iv) Muslims, (v) Sikhs, and (vi) others?

(b) What steps does the Honourable Member propose to take to remove this serious grievance of the Sikhs in this respect?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) (i) The Food Department has been reorganised and is now composed of three Divisions, the functions of the Directorate General falling largely into Division III. The number of posts in the categories specified in Divisions I and II of the Food Department are 17, 4, 6, and 18 respectively.

(ii) The corresponding figures for Division III are 11, 6, 12 and 9 respectively.

(iii) The figures are 1, 2, 1, and 1 respectively.

(iv) The figures are 4, 4, 2 and 5 respectively.

(v) The figures are 1, 2 and 1 for the first three categories and nil for the fourth category.

As regards the second part of clause (a) of the question, the number of posts held in each category by members of different communities is given below—

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Total
(i) Europeans	Nil	2	5	15	22
(ii) Anglo-Indians . . .	Nil	Nil	1	Nil	1
(iii) Hindus	26	14	9	19	68
(iv) Muslims	6	1	6	Nil	13
(v) Sikhs	1	1	Nil	1	3
(vi) Others	1	Nil	1	2	4
Grand Total					102

(b) The Food Department are always anxious to take in members of minority communities when candidates with adequate qualifications are available for the vacancies which occur

Sardar Sant Singh: Do I understand from the Honourable Member that the three posts held by the Sikhs are really held by them or Hindus describing themselves as Sikhs are also included in them?

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Sir, I rise on a point of order. My Honourable friend Sardar Sant Singh has been asking questions of a similar type for oral replies for which, in my humble judgment, there is nothing to be answered orally. I would like you to guide us whether such questions are suitable for oral reply.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): It is difficult to make that sort of distinction. It is left to the discretion of the Member. I have got to see whether a question whether it be starred or unstarred is in accordance with the Rules and Standing Orders. But whether the question should be starred or unstarred is left to the discretion of the Member himself.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: I wanted to point out our difficulty. If questions of this kind are put for oral replies, then those questions which really deserve oral replies are kept back. That is the difficulty which I have been feeling.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): That is for the Members themselves to decide. Besides, I must state that most of the answers to most of such questions are laid on the table.

Sardar Sant Singh: May I submit as a personal explanation on this point that Mr. Joshi has become unnecessarily nervous on this subject because I

find that such questions have been asked in the past and replies have been given.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) Order, Order: I have given my ruling.

Sardar Sant Singh: May I ask the Honourable Member whether he has assured himself that these three posts are held by the Sikhs and not by the Hindus describing themselves as Sikhs?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: As far as I know, they believe in *kais, kara and kripa*. I cannot say anything more.

Sardar Sant Singh: Will the Honourable Member give me the names of these gentlemen? They are only three and he can easily give me the names.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I have not got the names with me, but I shall gladly give the names to my Honourable friend.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I ask the Government Members whether in the interests of the time of the House it will not be better if they prepare a list of their officers arranged according to the communities so that these questions may be avoided altogether and the time of the House may be saved? May I ask the Honourable the House Member or any other Honourable Member who is responsible for this to give me a reply?

(No reply)

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) The Honourable Member has made his suggestion. Next question

STATISTICS AND UNEMPLOYED LABOUR

221. *Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: Will the Honourable Member for Labour please state

(a) if any statistics about unemployed labour in India is available, if so, what the number is, and how it is classified,

(b) if no statistics are available, when the Government intend to collect the same and classify it according to industries and under the heads "educated" and "uneducated";

(c) if the Government are aware that the United Nations are taking steps to maintain a high level of employment in their countries; and if so, when and what steps this Government intend to take to keep pace with them?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) The answer to the first part is in the negative, the latter part does not arise

(b) Government at present collect statistics about employment in certain industries and they propose to take steps to improve and expedite such statistics. It is not however possible at present to collect statistics about unemployment

(c) Government are aware that some of the United Nations are making plans to sustain a high level of employment even after the war. The reconstruction plans of the Government of India will also take into consideration the necessity of maintaining as high a level of employment as is available

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: May I ask if the Honourable Member is alert that in the post-war reconstruction he should see that every person in India should get an employment?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I do not follow the question

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Will the Honourable Member for Labour in the post-war scheme of reconstruction watch the interests of the labour and see that no person is out of employment?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: That should be our ideal, I accept

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: What is the difficulty about the collection of statistics? I thought I had said set this Department in motion by asking a question about statistics a year ago. May I ask if the work of the collection of statistics has not yet begun?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I have just begun and I think we have made a good beginning

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: May I ask what had he been doing for the last one year? When did he make a beginning?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: We had many other things to do besides this. We have made a good beginning.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: May I ask if early steps be taken to initiate the gathering of statistics about unemployment in different industries?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I have already said that we have initiated the policy of collecting statistics.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: May I know if anything has been done in carrying out the promise made to me last time in collecting statistics?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I have already said a beginning has been made.

POST-WAR SHIPPING POLICY

222. *Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: Will the Honourable Member for Commerce please state if he is now in a position to make a statement on post-war shipping policy of the Government of India? If so, will a statement be laid on the table?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: The matter is still under consideration and Government of India will await the results of the deliberations of the Post-war Shipping Policy Committee recently appointed by them, which is meeting early next month.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I know whether on this Post War Shipping Policy Committee, there are any representatives of seamen?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: We are considering the question of seamen separately.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I know whether the seamen are not interested in the policy of the Government of India as regards shipping and why they should not be placed on these Committees?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: Frankly speaking, every one is interested in the other in this world. But there are certain specific matters which have to be dealt with in a specific manner, and the question of seamen is of such importance that I would not like to make it subsidiary to any other question of importance, and that is why I am considering the question of seamen quite separately.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: What stage has been reached in the matter of sketching out this shipping policy? Has any beginning been made?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: It depends upon how you look upon it. But I can say that certainly a beginning has been made.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: When does the Honourable Member expect this portion of the planning to be completed?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: We have been trying to quicken the pace, but there are so many difficulties in this country that it takes a long time.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I know whether the plan refers only to actual putting the plan into force or whether the Government have made any beginning at all?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I am not able to answer that question.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: May I know when this Committee which he made mentioned of is going to hold its next sitting?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: The first week of next month as the programme stands at present.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: May I know if in this important business scheme, the Honourable Member will take the representations of seamen into consideration at any stage?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: It is very difficult for me to answer a problematical question.

POST-WAR TRADE AND INDUSTRIAL POLICY

223. *Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: Will the Honourable Member for Commerce please state.

(a) if any decisions have been reached by the Government on the question of India's post-war trade and industrial policy; and

(b) if a decision will now be taken by the Government to reserve Indian coastal trade for Indian vessels on account of the circumstances arising out of this war, if not, why not?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) The Government of India has appointed two Committees to advise on questions connected with post-war trade and industrial development. Government's policy in regard to these matters is under consideration.

(b) The future of Indian coastal trade will be considered by the relevant Policy Committee.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: How long will it take?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: As soon as the situation will arise?

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: At what time?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: God alone knows.

Mr. T. S. Avinashlingam Chettiar: What do you know?

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: Have any steps been taken by Government?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: We have taken preliminary steps to make a start as soon as the situation is ripe for it.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Have the Government of India made up their mind that in the conduct of industries like shipping and also in the conduct of trade, those who are employed in that trade and industry are not going to have any voice at all?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I am afraid I am not able to answer a general question like this. In any case, that is a matter which will have to be considered very carefully in connection with post war planning development.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Are not these seamen going to have any voice? Are they not going to look into the matter of policy as regards shipping and trade in which they are to be engaged?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I have said that the question of shipping policy vis-a-vis the different sections of the employees is a matter which is still under consideration and it is too early for me to say anything about this matter.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: Will the Government of India bring to the notice of His Majesty's Government and consider this matter seriously and quickly inasmuch as the expansion of the Navy depends on mercantile marine shipping?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: We are very much alert about the situation and we are trying to do our best. There is one point which I might mention as the last supplementary question arose out of seamen. I was referring only to representation of seamen on the Shipping Policy Committee. But as far as I know in both Industry and the Trade Policy Committee, there are representatives of labour in there. We have been quite alert in this matter.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: With reference to part (a) what are the two Committees that he mentioned, and how many sittings of these have been held? Is there any report published of the proceedings of the Committee?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: There is a Committee on Trade and another Committee on Industries.

1224. *

POST-WAR CONTROL OF IMPORTS AND EXPORTS

225. *Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: (a) Will the Honourable the Commerce Member please state whether the Government of India are contemplating to control the import and export of all principal articles in this country even after the cessation of hostilities?

(b) Will the sale of the imported and Indian manufactured articles be limited to those persons who hold the license which will be given at the will of the District Magistrates? In case the answer is in the affirmative, what safeguards have been provided that these licenses not only in number but also in quantity are distributed among various communities in equitable manner?

†This question has been postponed to be answered on the 15th November, 1944.

(c) Will the export and import for India be confined to few British Companies which will have branches in this country, or the Government will allow open competition in the interest of the consumers?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Haque: (a) and (c). The matter is under consideration. But I may say at once that the answer to the first part of (c) is in the negative.

(b) The sale of articles included in the schedule to the Consumer Goods (Control of Distribution) Order, 1944 will be made, if the Controller General of Civil Supplies considers it to be necessary, through dealers approved by him. The appointment of the approved dealers will be made ordinarily from amongst established representatives of importers, and the claims of these will be disregarded only when there is reason to believe that they cannot be relied upon to abide by the conditions, subject to which the distribution of the goods in question has been approved by the Controller General of Civil Supplies. The basis being the maintenance of normal trade channels, the question of selection by communities does not arise.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: If as the Honourable Member said the answer to part (c) is in the negative, then what is there to be considered?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Haque: I said that the points which the Honourable Member raised in parts (a) and (c), except in the latter part of (c) are under consideration. I have put it quite mathematically. (a) *plus* (c) *minus* the latter part of (c).

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I know whether it is not a fact that on account of the ingenious method of deciding quota, as a matter of fact larger quotas have been allotted to British firms because they were dealing with British countries and the Indian exporting firms have been cut out?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Haque: I am not prepared to accept that as a general statement of the situation.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Will the Honourable Member ascertain whether it is not a fact that Indian exporting firms which were trading with Germany, Japan and Italy and other countries have been cut out on the ingenious plea that they were not exporting to certain remaining countries now and that the British firms who were exporting . . .

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) The Honourable Member is arguing.

Mr. Manu Subedar: No, Sir, I am merely enquiring whether the Honourable Member would look into it and tell this House if Indian firms have been cut out on the plea I have mentioned.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Haque: I have been looking into the whole question. It is difficult for me to explain the multiple ramifications of the Import and Export Control policy in answer to supplementary questions. There is no doubt about this that to a certain extent, those who had been dealing in the past with enemy countries have not been able to get it as against those who have been dealing with Allied countries, but that is without any consideration as to whether they are British or Indian firms.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Will the Honourable Member lay a full statement on the Import and Export policy, if he is not prepared to answer it in reply to a supplementary question?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Haque: If there is a relevant Resolution, I shall certainly try to discuss every matter before this House. But I may inform my Honourable friend that control of import and export involving the whole continent of India and involving millions and millions of rupees is a matter which is rather difficult to bring down within the four corners of general principles within a few hours.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Is it necessary to control at all after the war?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Haque: On that question, opinions differ. The Opinion which we have got for the time being is that left to absolute free-trade and free dealings, there might be quite an economic chaos in this country.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: In view of the Honourable Member's statement that he is agreeable to place all the material at his disposal before the House if there

is a relevant Resolution on the subject, will he be good enough to take an early opportunity to move an official Resolution on the subject?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I should be glad to do it but I think it will be unfair to the Department to place an official Resolution on the agenda without knowing the points on which my Honourable friends want elucidation. I can quite frankly say that it is difficult to get information from different places like Bombay, Calcutta, Madras, Karachi, Rangoon, Chittagong, etc., without knowing the specific points on which information is required.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I know why the total export trade of India was not divided out fairly between all the pre-war exporters instead of giving a larger share to British firms?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: That is a point that I do not accept.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Has the Honourable Member considered that restriction of the type contemplated by him will lead to unthinkable corruption?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I do not think so.

†226. *

STEPS FOR MAKING UP THE LOSS OF BURMA RICE

227. *Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: (a) Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to state the quantity of rice which used to come from Burma and the supply of which was stopped on account of the loss of Burma?

(b) What steps did the Food Department take to make up the loss of rice on account of the loss of Burma?

(c) Is the Honourable Member aware of the fact that there exists in Assam over 5½ million acres of land?

(d) Is the Honourable Member aware of the fact that plenty of labour is available in Bengal and elsewhere who are willing to cultivate the land and increase the production of rice?

(e) Is the Honourable Member aware of the fact that the staple food in Bengal is rice and that the people of Bengal cannot easily assimilate the foodgrains normally consumed in upper India?

(f) Is it the function of his Department to procure food? If so what steps has he taken for increasing the quantity of food and in making up the loss of food supply on account of the loss of Burma?

(g) If the replies to (a) to (f) above are in the negative, will the Honourable Member be pleased to state the Department which deals with the procurement of food?

(h) Did the Honourable Member ever have any consultation with the Honourable Member in charge of procurement about the necessity of increasing the question of rice in this country?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) The average import of paddy and rice from Burma for five years (1937-38 to 1941-42) was 42,000 tons and 13,60,000 tons respectively.

(b) The following are some of the steps taken by the Government of India to make up for the loss of rice which used to be exported from Burma.

(1) In March 1942 the 'Grow More Food Campaign', which includes increased production of rice, was started. Financial assistance has been given to the Provinces in the form of loans and grants for financing various food production schemes which include distribution of improved seeds at concessional rates, multiplication of improved strains of paddy seeds, distribution of manures at concessional rates, reclamation of waste lands and construction of irrigation works. Steps are being taken to import fertilizers from abroad.

(2) At the instance of the Central Government several provinces have issued orders regarding the undermilling of rice with the object of increasing the total quantity of food available.

(3) Exports of foodgrains have been prohibited and imports arranged.

(c) The cultivable waste in Assam is over two million acres.

(d) Steps are already being taken to accelerate the extension of the food producing area in Assam and to increase the production of rice.

†This question has been postponed to be answered on the 15th November, 1944

— (e) The answer to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. As regards the second part, people generally find it easier to assimilate foodgrains to which they are accustomed than those to which they are not accustomed.

(f) The answer to the first part of the question is in the affirmative but the production of food is the responsibility of the Education, Health and Lands Department

For the answer to the second part of the question the Honourable Member is referred to my answer to clause (b) of his question

(g) and (h) Food Department deals with procurement of food

Sir Vithal N. Chandavarkar: Will the Honourable Member explore the possibility of importing rice from Egypt which, according to my information, has surplus rice available for export, and to which, I believe, we export cloth at controlled rates?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I have already taken up the matter

Prof. N. G. Ranga: With reference to part (e) will the Honourable Member be pleased to state how much of these two million acres of waste land has been brought under cultivation under this 'Grow More Food Campaign'?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: As I have stated, the question of that waste land is under examination. It is not free from difficulties, labour has got to be arranged for and the land has to be made fit for cultivation before it will produce rice. The whole matter is being examined.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: My Honourable friend gives this figure as two million acres, but is it not 5½ million acres?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: There is a mathematical mistake somewhere. The total area under rice in Assam is 5½ million acres. The cultivable land not under cultivation is two million acres.

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait: Arising out of part (f), will the Honourable Member state whether there is any co-ordination between the two Departments of Food and Agriculture and whether there is any plan for co-operation between the two?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: Yes, we work together all the time.

IMPORT AND EXPORT QUOTA FOR MUSLIM TRADESMEN

228. ***Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Commerce be pleased to state whether the Government of India have fixed a share for the Muslim tradesmen in the import and export quota fixed by his Department?

(b) Will the Honourable Member lay a statement on the table of the House giving the number of those persons to whom the import and export quotas have been given with the value and the quantity in both import and export trades?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) No, Sir.

(b) The information asked for is not readily available and its collection would involve an amount of time and labour that would not be justifiable in war-time.

EMBARGO ON EXPORT OF LUNGIS FROM MADRAS

229. ***Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad:** Will the Honourable Member for Commerce be pleased to state whether the export of cotton textiles of India has been totally stopped? If not, what are the reasons for putting an embargo on the export of lungis from Madras?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) Exports of cotton textiles including lungis are regulated according to a quota scheme. There is no embargo on the export of lungis from Madras.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Is it not a fact that there was an embargo on the export of lungis from Southern India?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: Not so far as I am aware, but whether those lungis should go to Bengal or to the U P was a matter that depended on the exigencies of the local situation and the transport difficulties.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: I am talking of an embargo on exports. Was there a prohibition on the export of handloom cloth?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I am not aware of it, but if my Honourable friend will write to me I will look into it.

EXPORT OF LEATHER, ETC., TO THE UNITED KINGDOM

230. *Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Commerce be pleased to state whether the export of leather, raw hide and skin has been stopped except in the case of United Kingdom? If so, why?

(b) Is it not a fact that the United Kingdom is not buying raw hide, leather and skin at the current prices but at the prices which existed in October, 1939?

(c) Is it not a fact that the difference in the market prices and the prices at which the Government sells these things to the United Kingdom falls on the consumers of India, and the price of leather is consequently much enhanced?

(d) Is it not a fact that export of raw hide and skin which used to be in the neighbourhood of 60 million pieces before the war has now been reduced to one million?

(e) Is it the policy of the Government of India to transfer the entire trade of hide and skin from persons who could afford to sell at cheaper rates to persons who would charge high prices? If not, how will he explain the existing facts?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) Exports of certain varieties have been prohibited to all destinations, including the United Kingdom, for the purpose of conserving supplies required in the country. Exports of other varieties are allowed under licence to several countries including the United Kingdom.

(b) *Raw hides* Exports of raw hides to the United Kingdom and in fact to any country are now negligible as the available supplies are almost wholly utilised within the country. The fixation of reasonable ceiling prices for hides sold for export as well as for indigenous utilisation is under active consideration.

Leather and skins The prices paid by the United Kingdom for these commodities have been advanced from time to time above the pre-war level, to the extent necessary to obtain supplies from the trade.

(c) Sales of raw hides, leather and skins to the United Kingdom are not effected by the Government of India. Ceiling prices for several varieties of leather have been fixed by the Government of India in recent months and these are applicable both to sales for export and for internal sales in the country.

(d) Exports of raw hides, as explained against part (b), are now very small. Exports of raw skins during 1943-44 were only about 17 per cent less than the pre-war average.

(e) The point raised by the Honourable Member is not understood. The reduction in exports is due, among other causes, to greatly increased consumption in the country and the policy of the Government of India is to fix ceiling prices for raw hides and leather and to organise equitable distribution as far as possible.

EXTENSION OF APPELLATE POWERS OF THE FEDERAL COURT

231. *Qasi Muhammad Ahmad Kasmi (a) Will the Honourable the Law Member please state if it is a fact that the present Honourable Chief Justice of India paid visits to the various High Courts of India, and everywhere he found that the opinion was unanimously in favour of the extension of the appellate powers of the Federal Court?

(b) Are Government aware that from the trend of the speeches delivered by him and of the talks he had, the general impression was that he was in favour of the extension of the powers of the Federal Court so as to comprise the power of hearing appeals from the High Courts?

(c) Is it or is it not a fact that the Government have also been considering the question of extending the powers of the Federal Court? If so, since when?

(d) At what stage are the preparations for extending the powers of the Federal Court for hearing appeals from High Courts?

(e) What are the chief difficulties in the way of the Government for extending the powers of the Federal Court in that direction?

The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy: (a) It is a fact that the Chief Justice visited all the High Courts in India. On my information, it is not a fact that the opinion disclosed in favour of the extension of the Federal Court's appellate powers was unanimous.

(b) I cannot say what the general impression was, but the Chief Justice has authorised me to say that he is in fact in favour of the extension.

(c) to (e) The Honourable Member is referred to my predecessor's reply to his starred question No 151 asked on the 19th February, 1943. The question still forms the subject of correspondence with the Secretary of State and I am not in a position to furnish any further information.

Mr. Lalchand Navai: May I know if any consultation is going on with the British Government in regard to the extension of these powers?

The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy: I have said that the question still forms the subject of correspondence with the Secretary of State.

REVIVING OF THE 'CRIPPS PROPOSALS'

232. ***Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi:** (a) Will the Honourable the Leader of the House please state whether he has seen the press reports about a prolonged exchange of opinions and consultations between Qaid-i-Azam-Jinnah and Mahatma Gandhi in connection with the solution of the political deadlock and the future constitutional reforms in India, which has unfortunately failed at least for the time being?

(b) Have the Government considered the general situation in the country after this failure, and have they under contemplation any schemes for the future constitutional reforms for India?

(c) Have the Government considered the advisability of taking steps for giving practical shape to the Cripps proposals and working them in the country with the help of the parties who are prepared to co-operate with the Government in that behalf?

(d) Have the Government considered the advisability of ascertaining general opinion in the country under the present circumstances regarding the Cripps proposals? If so, have they taken any steps in that direction?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: (a) Yes

(b), (c) and (d) The Government's policy in regard to the constitutional future of India has been made clear on more than one occasion in the past and, as late as the 15th August, in His Excellency the Viceroy's letter to Mr. Gandhi.

Mr. Lalchand Navai: In view of the failure of the talks between Mahatma Gandhi and Mr. Jinnah will Government recommend to His Excellency the Viceroy that these leaders should be called together and the deadlock removed?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: I have nothing further to add to my reply.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I ask if the Government of India will release the Members of the Congress Working Committee in order to facilitate talks on communal unity between the representatives of the Muslim League and the Indian National Congress?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: That question, I submit, does not arise.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: With regard to the reply of the Honourable Member to parts (b), (c) and (d) of the question, may I ask whether the situation has not changed at all and time has not lapsed between the speech which His Excellency the Governor General made and the present time and whether the changed situation does not require some changed action on the part of Government?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: I have nothing further to add to my reply.

Sardar Sant Singh: May I ask the Honourable Member whether, after the breakdown of negotiations between Mahatma Gandhi and Mr. Jinnah, Government has considered the question of taking an initiative in the matter of bringing together all the communities of India on somewhat the same lines as the

Round Table Conference, and to see if anything can be done in bringing about a compromise between the different communities?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: Sir, the same question is being put in different language by different members.

Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kasmi: May I suggest that this policy of inaction on the part of Government can be of no use either to the Government or to the country?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: It is the same question which another Honourable Member has put.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Next question.

AUTHORITY FOR SCRUTINIZING QUALIFICATIONS FOR CONFERMENT OF KNIGHTHOOD

233. *Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kasmi: Will the Honourable the Leader of the House please state if there is any authority appointed by the Government who scrutinizes the qualifications of the persons who are to receive the title of Knighthood? If so, what is that authority?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: The conferment of knighthood is a prerogative of the Crown and the Government of India are not concerned.

Mr. Lalchand Navarai: His Majesty confers Knighthood. Who removes them?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: Obviously the Crown.

Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kasmi: May I know whether the Government of India or the Provincial Government have any hand whatsoever in making recommendations for the title of Knighthood?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: The question was 'who scrutinizes' the qualifications. It has nothing to do with recommendations.

Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kasmi: Do any of these whom I have mentioned in my supplementary question scrutinize the qualifications of these gentlemen?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: I am not in a position to answer that because this is a prerogative of the Crown, and the Crown is entitled to have the advice of anyone that the Crown pleases.

Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kasmi: Have the Government of India any information whatsoever in respect of the conferment of Knighthood?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: They have got all sorts of information with respect to many things in this world, but I do not know whether I can add usefully to the answer that I have already given.

Sardar Sant Singh: May I know if Members of the Government are given a power to recommend their own favourites and whether the Honourable Member has got any reservations?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: No, not favourites.

CRITICISMS AGAINST ENCOURAGING IMPORTATION OF CONSUMERS GOODS

234. *Mr. K. O. Neogy: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies be pleased to state whether criticisms have been made by or on behalf of Indian industrialists of the present policy of encouraging the importation of consumers goods as having a prejudicial effect upon the indigenous industries? If so, will the Honourable Member be pleased to indicate the general lines of such criticisms, stating at the same time what steps are actually taken in the case of each indigenous industry likely to be affected by the importation of any particular type of consumers' goods for the purpose of finding out whether and how such industries are likely to be prejudiced by the importation of such goods?

(b) Is it a fact that different organisations of Commerce and Industry have suggested the establishment of a suitable machinery for the purpose of working as a liaison between the Department of Industries and Representatives of Indian manufacturing interests so as to ensure that legitimate interests of the existing and potential indigenous industries are not jeopardised by the Government's policy of importation?

(c) Do Government possess complete statistics of the production of each indigenous industry in the country which has been or may be affected by the

present policy of importation of consumers' goods, and are Government in possession of all facts relating to any handicaps from which they may be suffering in the matter of maintaining or increasing their production? What is the policy of Government in regard to rendering these industries necessary assistance for the purpose of removing such handicaps?

(d) Is it a fact that foreign manufacturers of consumers' goods are, in some instances, in receipt of State assistance in the matter of supply of controlled raw materials so as to enable them to manufacture finished products for export?

(e) Which indigenous industries in this country engaged in the manufacture of consumers' goods, which do not fall within the category of war materials, have been assisted by Government in the matter of obtaining any controlled raw materials?

The Honourable Sir M. Azisul Huque: (a) Yes Certain trade organisations representing Indian manufacturers have represented that the import of Consumer Goods is likely to have an adverse effect on Indian industries, especially those which have been created since the war to make goods shortages in imported Consumer Goods, owing to the higher cost of the Indian made articles. The suggestion has been that Indian industries are hampered in meeting such competition owing to the difficulty of obtaining raw materials, fuel, etc. In fact, however, Government import Consumer Goods only when it is established on the basis of information received from trade sources and the Government Departments concerned, that even after the grant of all possible assistance, adequate supplies cannot be indigenously manufactured to meet the immediate need.

(b) Yes Two trade bodies have made this suggestion.

(c) Neither Government nor the trade associations concerned nor any other body possess complete statistics of the production of indigenous industries. Government made full use of all information available with trade associations and other bodies regarding the disabilities of Indian industry, which is assisted in every way open to the Government of India having regard to the difficulties of transport, fuel and similar shortages and the over-riding priority accorded to Defence projects.

(d) Factories established in India by non-Indian manufacturers receive the same degree of assistance as other industries. Requests for export of their goods are dealt with on the same lines as requests from other industries.

(e) There is no industry of any importance in this country which has not at one time or another received assistance in the provision of fuel, transport, raw materials or similar assistance.

Mr. K. O. Neogy: With reference to the second part of clause (a) of my question, may I know whether an enquiry is made in each particular instance as regards the way in which an indigenous industry may be prejudicially affected by the policy of importation followed with regard to a corresponding article from abroad?

The Honourable Sir M. Azisul Huque: I might say that before any consumer goods are imported, it is decided from time to time as to what quantity of the different goods are to be imported. When that is done, each case of imported goods which is manufactured in this country is taken into consideration together with the quantity, and a complete list is prepared showing how far they are available and to what extent there is likely to be any shortage.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: May I ask the Honourable Member if it is not a fact that the nature and quantity of goods exported from the United Kingdom to India is decided not by any authority in India but by authorities in England?

The Honourable Sir M. Azisul Huque: No, Sir. We decide as to how much we will import. Thereafter it is for the exporting countries to say whether they can supply. It never depends on the other side to say as to how much they can send, but if there is a demand for an article and they can send it, we certainly accept.

Mr. Mann Subedar: Will the Honourable Member take steps to see that the consumer goods imported or, if I may say so, dumped in this country from

the United Kingdom are not sold at a price which is prejudicial to corresponding goods produced in this country?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: In the present economic condition of India, there is no chance of either dumping some of the consumer goods which we are importing, or any disturbance of the price structure of the manufactured goods in this country.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Does the conception of the Government with regard to indigenous industries include the cottage industries also. If so, are they keeping the interests of the cottage industries constantly in their mind when they import consumer goods from other countries into India?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: About Government's conception or the conception of anybody else I do not know, but I can say that so far as cottage industries and handloom goods are concerned, they are constantly before us, and I have personally looked into this case whenever there has been any suggestion that it affects the cottage industry.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Has the Honourable Member received any representations from Surat and Burhanpur handloom weavers that they are not getting yarn from Bombay?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I have received a telegram only three minutes ago.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Do I understand that Government have no proposal under consideration for the purpose of obtaining complete statistics of production in respect of indigenous industries?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: We have

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) Next question

BICYCLE MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY.

235. ***Mr. K. C. Neogy:** Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies be pleased to state

(a) the general position of the bicycle manufacturing industry in India and the Government policy, if any, in the matter of assisting the industry in any way,

(b) whether it is a fact that the Hind Cycles Company, Limited, have been forced to stop the manufacture of bicycles owing to Government's failure to grant necessary facilities for the importation of steel,

(c) whether such facilities were granted in the past to this company, and the reasons for their discontinuance,

(d) whether it is a fact that an assurance was given by a previous Commerce Member that the cycle industry will receive all necessary assistance from the Government; and

(e) whether bicycles of British manufacture are being imported into India under the present policy of importation of consumers' goods, the number of such bicycles imported during the past one year or so, together with their current prices in the United Kingdom and their selling prices as fixed in India?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) There are at present two firms manufacturing cycles in India (excepting certain components which have to be imported). Their combined capacity can meet less than half of India's estimated requirements. Government's policy is to give them all possible assistance.

(b) The Hind Cycles Co have suspended production of complete cycles because of the lack of certain raw materials which the U S A refuse to release. The Government of India are trying alternative sources for the supply of these.

(c) The answer to the first part is "Yes". The second part does not arise.

(d) No such assurance has been given with special reference to cycle industry.

(e) (i) Cycles are imported under the Consumer Goods Programme.

(ii) It would not be in public interest to give recent figures of imports.

(iii) The average f.o.b. price in U K. is about £4-9-0 per cycle.

(iv) The wholesale selling price of imported bicycles as fixed in India varies from Rs 99 to Rs 128 according to the make.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: With regard to the Honourable Member's statement that the United States refused to release certain raw materials which were used to be

supplied to this industry, will the Honourable Member be pleased to state whether ever since that refusal the firm concerned has not made several indents for the supply of the raw materials and what has happened to all those indents?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: Four indents are still outstanding with the Steel Import Controller. Government are prepared to issue necessary licenses but if the authorities on the other side are unwilling to release this material it is no use granting the licenses. The question of obtaining this material from alternative sources is under consideration and as soon as we can get it we shall issue import licenses from those countries.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Is the alternative source the United Kingdom or any other country?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I cannot say offhand but it must be the United Kingdom or Canada or some other country from which we can get it.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: The Honourable Member made a statement that it is not in the public interest to give the figures of the cycles imported, May I ask which section of the public he referred to—the users or the producers?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I am referring to all concerned.

COTTON TEXTILE MILLS TAKEN OVER BY GOVERNMENT.

236. *Mr. K. C. Neogy: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies be pleased to make a statement giving the names of cotton textile mills that have been taken over by Government for management under total or partial Government control, together with the maximum manufacturing capacity of these mills?

(b) What are the reasons for assumption of Government control over the management of these mills?

(c) Has any increase in the production been achieved as a result of such assumption of control, and, if so, what has been the rate of such increase, as compared with any general increase that may have taken place in the rate of production of cotton textiles in the country as a whole during the same period?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) and (c). The Shree Ram Mills and the Seksaria Mills. The other information is being collected and will be furnished to the Honourable Member in due course.

(b) For attempting to break the Control.

SLAUGHTER OF BOVINE CATTLE.

237. *Mr. Manu Subedar: Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands be pleased to state whether Government have assured themselves that more cattle of the bovine species are not slaughtered in India than are being produced? If so, on what basis and on the strength of what figures?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: Exact figures of the number of cattle produced or slaughtered in India every year are not available. But it has been estimated, on the basis of the female bovine population that 44 million calves are born every year. The cattle census of 1940 showed that the number of calves under one year of age was 28½ millions, indicating that about 35 per cent of those born die in their first year. The number of bovines slaughtered, according to the report on the marketing of hides in India is of the order of 6.6 millions a year. These figures show that there is a big margin between the number produced and the number slaughtered.

(As Mr. J. D. Tyson read through the answer)

Mr. Manu Subedar: There has been too much noise on this side of the House and I have not been able to hear the answer.

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I will read it again.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Order, order.

(Mr. J. D. Tyson read the answer again.)

Mr. Manu Subedar: Is the Honourable Member aware that owing to the complete agricultural liquidation in Bengal in rural areas a large number of female bovine included in his figure have been killed and that after their death they cannot produce further calves?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I do not admit the correctness of the first part of the question.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Are any steps being taken to prevent this infantile mortality among cattle?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: Yes, Sir. That is of course the concern of the Veterinary Department in all the provinces, to try to decrease "infantile mortality" in cattle.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What is the contribution that is being made by the Government of India?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: We maintain a Research Institute at Izzatnagar.

RISE IN PRICE OF MILK, MEAT AND CATTLE.

238. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Has the Honourable the Food Member noticed the phenomenal increase in the price of meat and milk, and the price of cattle throughout the country?

(b) Have Government considered that owing to the increased price of replacement of farm bullocks the "Grow More Food" campaign might fail and actually less food may be grown because of the inability of the farmer to replace a bullock which dies a natural death?

(c) Have Government received complaints that rural transport has been seriously affected owing to the shortage of bullocks and, in its turn, this is having effect on the movement and prices of food and other commodities?

(d) Have Government considered the desirability of stopping the slaughter of all bovine cattle for a period of three months until they get the situation in hand and they know exactly where they are in the matter of cattle?

(e) What steps, if any, have Government taken for the importation of cattle from outside and for the strict prohibition not only of export but of supply to ships in docks of cattle from India and the export of cattle or meat for the military outside India?

(f) Are Government in a position to give any assurances to the public on this issue?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) Government are aware of the fact that the prices of milk, meat and cattle have increased. Although no reliable figures are available it is probably correct that prices of live-stock have increased in sympathy with the general trend of prices and in excess of that trend in some areas.

(b) Enquiries made some months ago showed that except in a few localities in the United Provinces the campaign had not been adversely affected by bullock shortage.

(c) No such complaints have been received by the Government of India.

(d) As I informed the House in reply to Mr. Neogy's question No. 137 on the 7th November, 1944, Government have already issued instructions about the slaughter of useful cattle.

(e) No cattle have been imported from abroad, but their export has been restricted to the 1941-42 level which is 1,824 p.a. The export of the following classes of cattle is prohibited—

(i) cattle in milk, pregnant cattle, and female young stock which have not yet calved,

(ii) all male cattle fit for being used for ploughing, or transport purposes,

(iii) breeding bulls.

The proper provisioning of ships is necessary and it is not feasible to prohibit the supply of cattle to ships in docks for use during the voyage. Beef in the form of cattle on the hoof or fresh is not exported from India by the Defence Services.

(f) The Government of India are carefully watching the situation and taking steps to conserve and improve good breeding stock.

Mr. Manu Subedar: With regard to (e), i.e., dislocation of rural transport, will the Honourable Member make an enquiry from all the provincial administrations on this subject whether rural transport has been dislocated?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: Yes, Sir.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Will the Honourable Member further find out whether the report that in Hissar district owing to the shortage of plough cattle women had to take the plough is correct or not?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: We did enquire into it sometime ago and I think it was denied by the Punjab Government.

Mr. Mann Subedar: Will the Honourable Member enquire from the Bengal Government whether it is not a fact that the next harvest crop is $1\frac{1}{2}$ million tons less and the principal reason is shortage of plough cattle?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I will make an enquiry.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable Member consider the advisability of appointing an official enquiry to examine the whole question of the effects of the slaughter of cattle upon the 'Grow More Food' campaign and to investigate the ways and means by which this loss can be minimised?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: On our present information, we see no reason for an official enquiry.

EMPLOYMENT OF WOMEN UNDERGROUND IN MINES

239. *Mr. Mann Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state if it is a fact that the employment of women underground is against the Geneva Convention accepted by the Government of India?

(b) Is Government aware that no such employment has taken place in the United Kingdom in spite of the stress of war requirement?

(c) When did Government make this relaxation, and why?

(d) How long do Government expect to keep it open to employ women in coal mines?

(e) How many women are so employed?

(f) What is the wage earned by women underground, and how does it compare with the earnings of women employed in other trades?

(g) What steps have Government taken to safeguard the health and morale of women underground in coal mines?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) Yes

(b) Yes

(c) August 1948 in the case of coalfields in Central Provinces and Berar, November 1949 in the case of Bengal and Bihar and December 1948 in the case of Orissa. Owing to severe shortage of male labour in these coalfields.

(d) The Government are most anxious to re-impose the ban as soon as the production of coal reaches a figure which makes possible such re-imposition.

(e) An accurate figure of the total number of women employed underground cannot be given as this figure varies from day to day. It is however estimated that about 16,000 women are at present employed underground in all coal mines in Bengal, Bihar, Central Provinces and Orissa.

(f) Women employed underground are entitled to the same wages as men on similar work. The wages of women employed underground vary from annas 0-12-0 to annas 0-15-0 a day exclusive of the rice concession. Up-to-date information in respect of wages of women in other trades is not readily available.

(g) Women are not allowed to be employed underground in galleries which are less than 5½ feet in height. They are also entitled to the benefits of the Mines Maternity Benefit Act, 1941. For the purpose of enforcing the provisions of this Act and rules made thereunder, three Inspectors have been appointed. In addition, three Welfare Officers have also been appointed and a Lady Welfare Officer for mines is being appointed.

Mr. Mann Subedar: Has the Honourable Member seen the report in the United Kingdom about women in coal mines in which it is stated that no woman should work with any clothing above the waist-line?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: Yes.

Mr. Mann Subedar: In view of this fact that neither in the United Kingdom nor in the United States of America, nor in any country in the British Commonwealth of Nations, are women employed underground in spite of the stress of war, will the Honourable Member say why he has been a party to this humiliating practice?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: On account of the shortage of coal.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: The Honourable Member stated that a woman is entitled to the same wage as a man and he said that a woman on an average gets twelve annas. I do not agree with your figure. In the coal fields to the best of my knowledge a man and woman are paid jointly for joint production. How does the Government of India make sure what portion of the joint earning the man gives to the woman?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: It is easy to arrive at the figure by distributing the gang wages.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I again ask the Honourable Member how does he make sure that the woman gets the same wages as the man?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I said that a woman is entitled to the same wages as a man for the same work.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: How does he make sure that the man gives to the woman half the wage and does not take more for himself and give less to the woman?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I do not know but I feel that the man and woman who work together are husband and wife and I wonder whether they would be very much interested in exact mathematical distribution of their joint wages.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: In view of the fact that the Honourable Member stated that he did not know, may I ask the Government of India to withdraw the statement which they have made that a woman is entitled to equal wage with the man. Is not the Honourable Member proclaiming that the woman is getting equal wage with the man? Unless he can make sure how the woman can get equal wage with the man, he is not entitled to make a statement which, in my judgment, is misleading.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: That is only a quibble on the part of the Honourable Member.

Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan: May I ask whether the Government, according to the assurance given by them during the last Session have reviewed the position and satisfied themselves that it is absolutely necessary for them to continue this cruel custom of employing women in mines?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: The Government have been reviewing the position.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: May I know from the Honourable Member whether there is any restriction upon pregnant women going underground?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: It is very difficult to put any such restriction, because, as my Honourable friend is aware, it is extremely difficult to discover the state of pregnancy in many women.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: Surely the Honourable Member realises that it is not such a difficult matter. It is done in other trades. Why can't it be done here as well? Why can't a restriction be placed at least in theory, if not in practice, that no pregnant woman shall go underground?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I might assure my Honourable friend that the matter is under active consideration.

Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan: Have the Government made any arrangement for the care of infants and children of these women workers?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: There has been established a Coal-miners' Welfare Fund and the care of children will be one of the duties of this Fund.

Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan: I want to know whether the Government have made any definite arrangement for the care of the infants and children of these women?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: That is a statutory organisation and one of its obligatory duties would be to look after the infants and children of the women workers.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: May I know whether Government have taken effective steps to reduce the number of women working in the mines and increase the number of men to be employed there?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: That is also under consideration.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Are any steps being taken?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: Steps are being contemplated.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: Besides the statutory provision, do Government know of any arrangement that should be made to safeguard the welfare of these pregnant women and children?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I am sure the Honourable Member will allow me to say that intelligence is not the monopoly of himself

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: Neither is it the monopoly of the Government

SHORTAGE OF LABOUR IN COAL MINES.

240. *Mr. Mann Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state if it is a fact that shortage of labour in coal mines was due to higher wages offered by Army contractors for the construction of aerodromes etc ?

(b) What were the wages in coal mines before the war, and what have been the wages during each of the five years of the war?

(c) Is it true that the falling off in the output of coal mines was due to the reluctance of coal mine-owners to pay proper wages, having regard to the rise in the cost of living?

(d) What steps have Government taken to deal with the situation created by (i) shortage of labour, and (ii) shortage of coal?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) Employment of labour at higher rates by Army contractors was a contributory cause of the shortage of labour in collieries

(b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House

(c) It is a fact that wages of colliery labour were not for long sufficiently adjusted to meet the increased cost of living. This was one factor in the falling off of the supply of labour

(d) I invite the attention of the Honourable Member to the replies given in the Legislative Assembly by the Honourable Member for Supply to parts (a), (b), (d), (e) and (f) of Mr Neogy's starred question No 17. This describes the various steps taken by Government to deal with the situation created by the shortage of labour and the shortage of coal

The representatives of the industry also agreed at Dhanbad in December 1943 to increase the cash wages of colliery labour and grant concessions in the supply of foodstuffs

	Miners	Loaders	Skilled Labour	Unskilled Labour	Females	Miners	Loaders	Skilled Labour	Unskilled Labour	Females	Unskilled Labour	Females
Jharkhand Coalfield												
(Bihar)—												
1938	0.9	6.0	8.3	0.10	0.9	0.8	0.7	0.8	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.4
1939	0.9	6.0	8.9	0.11	0.9	0.9	0.7	0.8	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.4
1940	0.9	6.0	8.6	0.11	0.9	0.9	0.7	0.8	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.4
1941	0.9	6.0	8.6	0.11	0.9	0.9	0.7	0.8	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.4
1942	0.10	0.0	0.0	0.11	0.8	0.9	0.8	0.9	0.6	0.5	0.7	0.3
1943	0.11	0.0	0.10	0.12	0.8	0.10	0.8	0.10	0.6	0.5	0.8	0.3
1943	0.13	0.0	0.12	0.14	0.9	0.11	0.6	0.13	0.6	0.5	0.9	0.3
Ranigumji Coalfield												
(Bengal)—												
1938	0.9	3.0	7.9	0.10	0.6	0.8	0.5	0.9	0.7	0.5	0.6	0.4
1939	0.9	3.0	7.9	0.10	0.6	0.8	0.5	0.9	0.7	0.5	0.6	0.4
1940	0.9	3.0	7.9	0.10	0.6	0.8	0.5	0.9	0.7	0.5	0.6	0.4
1941	0.9	3.0	7.9	0.10	0.6	0.8	0.5	0.9	0.7	0.5	0.6	0.4
1942	0.10	0.0	0.9	0.11	0.6	0.8	0.5	0.9	0.7	0.5	0.6	0.4
1943	0.14	0.0	1.2	0.14	0.6	0.8	0.5	0.9	0.7	0.5	0.6	0.4
Jardih Coalfield—												
1938	0.9	3.0	11.6	0.12	0.9	0.8	0.5	0.9	0.7	0.5	0.6	0.4
1939	0.10	0.0	1.1	0.13	0.8	0.3	0.5	0.3	0.6	0.3	0.6	0.4
1940	0.9	3.0	10.9	0.13	0.8	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.3	0.6	0.4
1941	0.9	3.0	10.9	0.13	0.8	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.3	0.6	0.4
1942	0.13	0.0	1.0	0.13	0.8	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.4	0.6	0.3
1943	0.14	0.0	1.1	0.13	0.8	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.4	0.6	0.3
Panch Valley Coalfield												
(Central Province)—												
1938	0.13	0.0	7.3	0.0	0.6	0.9	0.6	0.7	0.3	0.3	0.6	0.3
1939	0.12	0.0	7.3	0.0	0.6	0.9	0.6	0.7	0.3	0.3	0.6	0.3
1940	0.14	0.0	7.3	0.0	0.6	0.9	0.6	0.7	0.3	0.3	0.6	0.3
1941	0.14	0.0	7.3	0.0	0.6	0.9	0.6	0.7	0.3	0.3	0.6	0.3
1942	0.15	0.0	7.3	0.0	0.6	0.9	0.6	0.7	0.3	0.3	0.6	0.3
1943	1.1	3.0	10.3	0.12	0.3	0.8	0.5	0.9	0.6	0.5	0.9	0.3

Mr. Manu Subedar: What is the increase in wages that the employers are compelled to pay as compared with the prewar rates.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I am sorry I cannot give the figure, but I have got a statement here which is pretty full and I am sure the Honourable Member will find what he wants there.

Mr. Manu Subedar: What steps have the Government taken to see that the women forced into the mines in this distressful manner get at least a little more pittance than women working in other trades above ground?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I can assure my Honourable friend that the wages in coal mines have increased by more than 50 per cent.

Mr. Manu Subedar: What steps have the Government taken to coerce the coal mine owners? The Government pay for coal Rs. 9-8-0 now instead of Rs. 8-8-0 before the war. If you give so much more for coal, have you made any condition that this part of the extra will go to the women workers whom you have disgracefully forced into the mines?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I think we have taken all the steps necessary.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Is it not a fact that the Government of India are taking measures to prevent miners being employed by military contractors in order that the miners may be forced to go into mines for work at the risk of being starved?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: That does not arise out of this question.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Do these 18,000 women possess any special qualification or skill so that they are thus forced to work in the mines, which qualifications could not be acquired by males in this country?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: They are neither asked nor forced. They are only permitted to offer themselves for their traditional occupation.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I know whether it is not a fact that the coal production today is less than the prewar period and whether this shortage of coal production is not due to the smallness of the wages paid to the miners?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: My Honourable friend is entitled to draw his own inference.

PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT TO IMPERIAL CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES.

241. ***Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari:** Will the Honourable the Commerce Member please state

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to the frequent complaints in this House, in the Press and amongst the public that the Imperial Chemical Industries, Limited, are being singled out for the bestowal of special favours by the Government of India,

(b) whether the Honourable Member and his Department have examined the numerous instances of such preferential treatment to this concern by the Government of India since the commencement of the war, and

(c) whether he is aware that the entire stock of an enemy Corporation "Chemdyes", has been handed over to the Indian Branch of the Imperial Chemical Industries, and that all the trade done by Chemdyes has been treated as the trade done by the Imperial Chemical Industries for the purpose of assigning quotas?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) Yes

(b) Government have carefully examined the complaints brought to their notice

(c) The stocks of Chemdyes Limited were sold to the Imperial Chemical Industries (India) Limited, Bombay after calling for public tenders. The answer to the second part is in the negative.

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS PLACED WITH IMPERIAL CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES.

242. ***Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari:** Will the Honourable the Commerce Member please state:

(a) the scope and nature of the special contracts placed by the Government of India with the Imperial Chemical Industries in this country;

(b) whether pressure was brought to bear on the Government by the Secretary of State for India or any other highly placed personage in order to grant this company special favours, and

(c) the nature of concessions, prospective rights, long-term leases and other facilities granted to the Imperial Chemical Industries during the years 1936-1943?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: The information is being collected and will be communicated to the Honourable Member in due course.

POLICY re PURCHASE OF FOODGRAINS BY INDIAN STATES FROM BRITISH INDIAN PROVINCES.

243. *Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: (a) Will the Honourable Food Member please state what part his Department plays in the matter of Indian States purchasing foodgrains from British Indian Provinces?

(b) Does his Department keep note of the ultimate destination of foodgrains supplied to Indian States, and the prices obtained for the same by such States?

(c) Are the Indian States who acquire foodgrains from British Indian Provinces permitted to re-sell such foodgrains or products therefrom again to British Indian Provinces at a considerable profit to themselves?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) Food Department allocates quotas of foodgrains to deficit States from surplus Provinces and States under the Basic Plan, just as it does in the case of British Indian Provinces

(b) Yes, in a general sense but not in detail

(c) No

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: May I ask the Honourable Member if any instance of an Indian State offering its surplus quantity of wheat flour to a British Province at a price higher than its own purchase price in British India has been brought to his notice?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I have already answered the question. If the Honourable Member has got any specific case in mind, will he let me know?

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: I have got a specific case in mind, that is why I am asking the Honourable Member this question.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: Will the Honourable Member let me know the case?

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: I can tell you Madras approached Hyderabad for some flour which was stocked at Hapur, and the Hyderabad Government asked for 50 per cent more than the price ruling at Hapur. I think the matter must be known to the Honourable Member. I would like to know from the Honourable Member what he is going to do about it.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I know the case. We allowed Hyderabad to resell certain wheat products to Madras, and the question of prices to be charged is still under examination.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: Does the Honourable Member mean to say that the scandalous profits claimed by the Hyderabad Government is matter for examination?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I do not suppose so.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Can the Honourable Member assure this House that the Indian States which have got surpluses are really co-operating with Government as fully and as satisfactorily as he and I could wish?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: That is a large question to answer. As far as I know they are co-operating with us.

(b) WRITTEN ANSWERS

NAGARJUNA-KONDA ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATIONS.

244. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands be pleased to state—

(a) the amount so far spent on Nagarjuna-Konda on, (i) excavations, (ii) museum, and (iii) communications;

- (b) its historical importance to the Indian nation and to the Andhras;
- (c) when the English Archaeological Expert visited Nagarjuna-Konda;
- (d) what his recommendations were about the finds there and when they were made;
- (e) the improvements since made at Nagarjuna-Konda and at what cost;
- (f) whether there is any "Visitors Book" at that museum, and since when it has been kept, and whether the number of visitors has been on the increase;
- (g) whether Government are aware of the fact that the Guntur District Board led an excursion of 250 high school students in 1939-40 and the Guntur colleges an excursion of undergraduates in 1943-44 to this place;
- (h) if it is a fact that Government have under contemplation any scheme to disorganise the Nagarjuna-Konda finds and collection and museum, and if so, when it was initiated and with what objects;
- (i) whether Government have received any protests from the Andhra Mahasabha Literary Association and Andhra Itihasa Sansodhaka Mandal (Guntur) and such other organisations;
- (j) whether Government are aware of the fact that there is a widespread and prolonged agitation in Andhra Province against any such proposed policy;
- (k) whether they have seen the editorial in the October number of Journal of Andhra Historical Association, and
- (l) whether Government propose to abandon their scheme and to offer to increase the facilities now available to the public for appreciating the glories of the Indian civilisation as indicated by Nagarjuna-Konda finds?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) (i) Rs 19,084

(ii) Rs 23,786

(iii) Nil

(b) The sculptures which relate to the Buddhist period are of considerable historical importance

(c) Sir Leonard Woolley visited Nagarjuna-Konda in 1938

(d) In his report of 1939 Sir Leonard Woolley pointed out that an archaeological museum has three functions, firstly the housing and preservation of antiquities, secondly to further the advance of science and thirdly to serve as an educational centre for the instructions of the general public. As regards the museum at Nagarjuna-Konda in particular he said "The *reductio ad absurdum* of the 'Local Archaeological Museum' policy has been reached at Nagarjuna-Konda here in a place correctly described by the Director General as 'almost inaccessible' a museum is being erected at an estimated cost of Rs 27,000 to house, or rather to keep out of public sight a collection of magnificent stone sculptures of a type which is not represented in any museum in India. I may add that both the excavations and the sculptures have been open to view for years past and so far as I was able to learn I was, apart from members of the Department, the first person to visit them for more than two years." He recommended that no further expenditure should be incurred on the museum except on certain minor works and that actually the museum should be closed.

(e) Since Sir Leonard Woolley's visit the Museum godown has been completed and a gate fixed.

(f) There is a visitors' book at the Museum. It is understood that there has been no increase in the number of visitors.

(g) The Archaeological Department are aware of the excursions of students to this site.

(h) Government have no such scheme under consideration.

(i) and (j) On the mistaken assumption that a decision had been taken in the matter, protests were sent to the Archaeological Department by the organisations mentioned.

(k) No.

(l) The question does not arise.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION SCHEMES IN KISTNA AND GUNTUR DISTRICTS.

245. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands be pleased to state:

(a) what steps are being taken (i) to further excavate the old or promising sites at Joggarrapettah, Ghantasala and Gudivada of Kistna District, Bhattaperdhu, Amravati, Garikapadu, Goli, Chinaganazana of Guntur District, (ii) also to protect the finds already found there, and (iii) to acquire from the local private persons golden or silver coins, etc., that had come into their possession; and

(b) what other schemes of excavation are proposed to be taken up during the next two years?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) (i) No steps are at present being taken to excavate the sites mentioned in the Kistna and Guntur Districts

(ii) Most of the sites mentioned are already protected under the Ancient Monuments Preservation Act, and all possible measures have been taken to preserve finds from them

(iii) The safeguarding of discoveries of gold and silver coins is a provincial responsibility under the Indian Treasure Trove Act

(b) The partial excavation of one of the sites at Taxila has been started where a training class in practical archeology for students throughout India has been inaugurated. The explorations and recording of prehistoric sites in South India is also in progress. A small scale excavation at Hadappa and the partial excavations of a site in South India are also contemplated. Owing to the war however excavation operations in the immediate future must necessarily be on a restricted scale

POST-WAR PLANNING FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL DEPARTMENT.

246. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands be pleased to state if the development of the work of Archaeological Department, such as (i) the further excavation of the sites of old finds and the excavation of new and hitherto unexplored but promising sites, (ii) the organisation of central museum for each linguistic provincial area, and (iii) the re-transfer of our archaeological finds now kept in London, Calcutta, Bombay and Madras to the Central Museums of the respective linguistic provinces will form a part of the post-war planning?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: The development of the work of the Archaeological Department will be considered in connection with the post war programme

REMOVAL OF ARCHITECTURAL ANTIQUITIES OF BUDDHIST ERA FROM NAGARGUNA HILLS MUSEUM.

247. *Mr. G. Rangiah Naidu: Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state whether it is a fact that the Government of India have issued orders to the Archaeological Department for the removal of the architectural antiquities of Buddhist era from the museum of Nagarguna Hills, Palanad Taluk, Guntur District, Madras Presidency? If so, what are the reasons? And after removal, where are they going to be kept? Is it in India or anywhere abroad in any country?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: The answer to the first part of the question is in the negative. The remaining parts of the question do not arise.

AID TO HANDLOOM INDUSTRY.

248. *Mr. K. S. Gupta: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies please state whether there is any scheme in hand by the Government of India to give substantial aid to the handloom industry? If so, what is it? Would it be laid on the Table?

(b) Is an All-India Handloom Board formed? If so, what is the personnel? What is the kind of work entrusted to such a Board?

(c) If such a Board has not been formed, do the Government of India propose to hasten the constitution of such a Board in view of the disabilities of the handloom industry?

(d) Are the Government of India aware of the unemployment of several lakhs of handloom weavers for want of adequate supply of yarn?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) It is proposed to set up an All-India Handloom Board. The proposal has been referred to Provincial Governments and non-official bodies. The proposed functions of the Board include.

(i) recommendations as to what proportion of the yarn available from Indian production should be supplied to Provinces and States interested in handloom weaving,

(ii) assistance to handloom weavers in obtaining dyes, chemicals and other necessary stores at fair rates;

(iii) consideration of the best means of marketing Indian handloom products,

(iv) directing research measures, which would be mainly concerned with market researches rather than laboratory researches,

(v) administration of the Government of India's grant-in-aid

(b) As I have indicated in my reply to part (a) of the question, the Board is not yet formed. The proposed constitution of the Board is that it should include representatives of Provincial Governments and of the Handloom Industry, representatives of States, and representatives of mills and of the yarn trade

(c) Yes

(d) No

FERTILISERS MISSION.

249. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable the Commerce Member be pleased to state whether the Mission which came to deal with fertilisers has returned? If so, when is its report going to be published?

(b) Is it a fact that the men connected with this Mission were present or past employees of the Imperial Chemical Industries?

(c) Did Government receive any applications from Indian capitalists to be permitted to set up this industry, and, if so, why have these applications been rejected?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: With your permission, Sir, I will take up Question Nos 249 and 250 together

These relate to the Supply Department and will be answered by my Honourable Colleague the Supply Member

PURCHASE OF NITROGEN INDUSTRY PLANTS FROM AMERICA.

250. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable the Commerce Member be pleased to state if it is a fact that there are several plants for Nitrogen industry set up by the Government of the United States of America for the purposes of the war, which will be out for sale?

(b) If the answer to (a) above is in the affirmative, is there any reason why these plants should not be purchased for India instead of paying heavily for second-hand plants from the United Kingdom?

(c) Have Government put this matter before the Standing Advisory Committee connected with any of the Departments or before any members of the Legislature?

(d) Do Government propose to make a complete statement of their policy in connection with the fertiliser industry?

INDIAN CONTRIBUTION TO THE UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND REHABILITATION ADMINISTRATION FUND.

251. *Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: Will the Honourable the Commerce Member please state:

(a) whether the Government of India have agreed to make any payment to the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration on behalf of India, consequent upon India becoming a party to this Agreement; and

(b) if the answer to (a) above is in the affirmative, the amount contributed by India towards—

(i) the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration Fund, and

(ii) the administrative expenses of the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration?

*For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 249.

The Honourable Sir M. Asirul Huque: (a) and (b). I propose to bring this matter before this Assembly, *vis.*, the amount of a contribution to the U. N. R. R. A. So far only a sum of 100,000 dollars has been paid as India's share of the administrative expenses.

PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS' CONTRIBUTIONS TO RADICAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY AND INDIAN LABOUR FEDERATION.

252. *Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi: Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state:

(a) whether office bearers or any individual of the Radical Democratic Party or of the Indian Federation of Labour receive monetary help from the different Provincial Governments besides Rs 18,000 per month from the Central Government,

(b) whether he is aware that these two organisations receive a sum of Rs. 75,000 per month from the Government of the United Provinces;

(c) the object of the Government in giving monetary help to these two organisations only, and

(d) which the other labour organisations are which receive monetary help from the Government?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) Government has no information. The grant of Rs. 18,000 is made not to the Radical Democratic Party but to the Indian Federation of Labour and not to any individual member or office-bearer of the Federation. The letter in which assistance from Government was offered was addressed both to the All-India Trade Union Congress and the Indian Federation of Labour. In their reply the All India Trade Union Congress did not ask for any assistance.

(b) I am not aware of any grant made to the Federation by the Government of the United Provinces

(c) This Department is concerned only with the grant to the Indian Federation of Labour. The object of this grant is to enable the Federation to do propaganda to keep up the morale of industrial labour

(d) There are no other labour organisations receiving monetary help from the Central Government.

SHORTAGE OF AGAR AGAR DUE TO AGAR CONTROL ORDER.

253. *Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi: Will the Secretary for the Education, Health and Lands Department please state.

(a) whether he is aware that pharmaceutical manufacturing concerns engaged in manufacturing various types of vaccines are facing a serious situation owing to the shortage of agar agar to be used as a medium for the culture of micro-organisms due to the Agar Control Order of 1942,

(b) whether he is aware that a serious black market has been created in agar agar and what steps have so far been taken to control stock and distribute same to the pharmaceutical concerns engaged in manufacturing vaccines of various types, and

(c) which are the firms or persons so far listed under the Agar Control Order of 1942 to be approached by the pharmaceutical concerns for getting supplies of agar agar?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) The answer is in the negative. Permits for the sale of agar have been issued by the Director General, Indian Medical Service in all cases where the applicants required the material for the culture of micro-organisms

(b) Government have no reason to think that a black market has developed. The manufacture, sale and use of agar are controlled under the Agar Control Order, 1942

(c) No list of stock-holders is maintained under the Agar Control Order, 1942, but the Director General, Indian Medical Service is always prepared to give information regarding available sources of supply.

EXPORT OF COTTON CLOTH AND YARN FROM DELHI.

254. *Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies please state:

(a) if it is a fact that export of cotton yarn and cloth from deficit areas is prohibited?

(b) if it is a fact that export of cotton cloth and yarn from Delhi is prohibited from the 14th of October, 1944;

(c) if it is a fact that between 14th October, 1944 and 31st October, 1944, cotton cloth and yarn was transported by road from Delhi market to Pilkhwa Railway station on the Delhi-Moradabad Section of the East Indian Railway within the Meerut District of the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh;

(d) if it is a fact that between those dates several hundred bales of cotton cloth and yarn was transported by rail from that Railway station (Pilkhwa) to stations within the United Provinces and Bengal,

(e) if it is a fact that the senders of these goods as per Railway receipts are merchants of Delhi;

(f) if it is a fact that Railway Forwarding Notes were signed by the brokers of Delhi,

(g) if the replies to (a) to (f) or any of them be in the affirmative, the nature of the action taken against the person or persons who violated the Cotton Cloth and Yarn Control Order, 1943, as amended from time to time, if no action has been taken, the reasons therefor, and

(h) if the replies to (a) to (f) or any of them be in the negative, what the true fact is, and whether the transport by road of those goods were within the knowledge of the Director, Civil Supplies, Delhi, or his subordinate staff?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) It is not quite correct to say that export of cotton cloth and yarn from deficit areas is prohibited. The actual position is that under the Cotton Cloth Movements Control Order movements of cloth by rail from only two Deficit Zones, viz., the Punjab and Bengal Zones, are prohibited. Movements of yarn are not prohibited nor the movement of cloth by road.

(b) When he speaks of the date 14th October, I take it the Honourable Member is referring to a notification which issued on that date, by which the former Delhi Surplus Area was included in the Punjab Deficit Zone. It would therefore be true to say that as from the 14th October the export of cotton cloth from Delhi by rail is prohibited.

Government have no information as to whether the facts stated by the Honourable Member in the remainder of his question are correct or not. But the Honourable Member will appreciate from my reply to parts (a) and (b) of this question that, even if these facts are correct, they constitute no offence.

HIGH PRICES OF POTATOES, FISH, ETC., IN DELHI AND OTHER CITIES.

255. *Sir F. E. James: (a) Will the Honourable the Food Member please state if he is aware that the prices of potatoes, fish, eggs, vegetables, milk, butter, mutton and beef in Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta and elsewhere are scandalously high with resulting distress to the middle and poorer classes of the population and that in some cases this is due, in part, to restrictions on the export of these commodities imposed by neighbouring Provinces?

(b) What steps are being taken by the Central and Provincial Governments directly or by co-ordination and consultation, to control the prices of non-cereal foods?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) Yes.

(b) The Honourable Member is referred to my closing speech in the food debate yesterday.

DISSATISFACTION OF TELUGU POPULATION INCLUDED IN ORISSA PROVINCE:

256. *Mr. K. S. Gupta: (a) Is the Honourable the Leader of the House aware of the dissatisfaction prevailing in the Telugu speaking people which forms the majority of the population of Oraput, Pottangi, Padwa, Nowrangapore, Teypore,

Rayagbada, Gunupur, Berhampur, Chatrapur and Parlakumedi Taluks due to their unjust amalgamation of these parts into the Orissa Province?

(b) Would the Government of India see its way to remove the disabilities of the predominantly Telugu speaking population of the areas abovementioned by re-amalgamating them into the Telugu speaking area of the Madras Province?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: (a) and (b) The present boundaries of Orissa were laid down after prolonged and careful consideration in which the views expressed by all sections of opinion were taken fully into account, and it is not proposed to reopen the question. Government are not aware of any such dissatisfaction as is suggested in the question.

SHIPPING AVAILABLE FOR CIVILIAN GOODS.

257. *Mr. Mann Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Commerce be pleased to state the amount of shipping, as compared with the two years before the outbreak of the war, available for civilian goods in connection with (i) overseas trade, and (ii) coasting trade?

(b) What steps have Government taken to increase the tonnage available for these purposes?

(c) What is the basis on which available shipping space is assigned to various firms and various classes of goods? *

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Haque: (a) and (b) It is not in the public interest to give the information asked for by the Honourable Member.

(c) So far as the overseas trade of India is concerned, the allocation of available shipping space between various firms and various classes of goods is regulated chiefly through the import and export licensing systems. As regards the coasting trade, the Government of India lay down from time to time the order of priority in which certain essential commodities are to be moved between the various ports, and the Coastal Shipping Committee at Bombay, the composition of which was announced in a press communiqué issued on the 1st October 1943, allocates shipping space for such commodities in that order of priority. Any balance of shipping space which still remains after meeting the requirements of such commodities is left to be allocated between different firms and different classes of goods by the shipping companies themselves in accordance with their normal practice.

PROPAGANDA BY MEMBERS OF THE VICE-ROY'S COUNCIL

258. *Mr. K. S. Gupta: (a) Will the Honourable the Leader of the House please state if it is not a fact that the members of the Viceroy's Council tour about India at the public expense?

(b) Are they allowed to carry on propaganda—personal and party?

(c) Are the Government of India aware that Dr Ambedkar carried on propaganda for the Scheduled Caste Federation?

(d) Is it not a fact that Dr Ambedkar started the propaganda that scheduled castes form a separate nation? If the answer is in the positive, is it the collective and considered opinion of the Government of India?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: (a) Yes

(b), (c) and (d) I do not know which speech or statement of the Honourable the Labour Member is characterised as "propaganda" in the question. I can only say that in any statement or speech made in regard to the Scheduled Castes on their future, my Honourable Colleague was speaking for himself alone and Government are not thereby committed in any way.

SHIPPING AVAILABLE FOR CIVILIAN GOODS.

259. *Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Will the Honourable the Commerce Member please state—

(a) in view of the easing shipping situation, what the present available tonnage for articles of civilian consumption is; and

(b) the main articles for which Government are giving permits?

The Honourable Sir M. Azisul Huque: (a) It is regretted that for security reason the information cannot be given.

(b) The main articles of civilian consumer goods for which import licences are being granted are drugs and medicines, toilet requisites, paper, stationery, books, artificial silk fabrics, woollen fabrics, glassware, crockery, hardware, cycles, photographic goods, hurricane lamps, clocks and watches

ARTICLES UNDER PRICE CONTROL.

260. *Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Will the Honourable the Commerce Member please state—

(a) the articles which have been brought under price control since the last session, and

(b) till now what the total number is of articles for which there is price control?

The Honourable Sir M. Azisul Huque: (a) A list of the articles is placed on the table. I must, however, remind the Honourable Member that all articles except Foodgrains and those which are under specific controls come under the purview of the Hoarding and Profiteering Prevention Ordinance, 1943

(b) 70

List of Articles brought under price control since the last Assembly Session.

1 Electric bulbs	19 Cinema Equipment and spare parts
2 Imported Woollen goods	20 White English Crockery
3 Antenna Wire	21 Used Motor Cars and Cabs
4 Tinned Provisions	22 Wheat
5 Imported Silk fabrics.	23 Gram
6 European types of vegetable seeds	24 Barley
7 Toilet articles	25 Cement
8 Battery cells	26 Indian Woollen goods
9 Sisoo Timber	27 Footwear
10 Condensed Milk	28 E. L. Keys (leather)
11 Vegetable ghee	29 Drugs and Medicines
12 Camphor Powder	30 Paper
13 Camphor Tablets	31 Raw Jute
14 Westlex clock	32 Jute Goods
15 Imported Thermos Flasks	33 Shellac
16 Brass Utensils	34 Cotton Yarn
17 Watches.	35 Iron and Steel
18 Electro-depositing material	36 Machine Tools

PAY OF INDIAN SEAMEN SERVING ON BRITISH COMPANY SHIPS

261. *Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Will the Honourable the Commerce Member please state—

(a) the pay that Indian seamen receive in ships managed by British Companies,

(b) how it compares with the pay of seamen of British and other nationalities employed by them; and

(c) what steps Government have taken to safeguard the interest of these Indian seamen employed by British and other foreign companies?

The Honourable Sir M. Azisul Huque: (a) and (b) I lay a statement on the table of the House giving the required information

(c) The matter is under negotiation between shipowners and Indian Seamen's representatives.

Comparative Statement showing the rates of basic wages paid to Indian, European and Chinese Seamen in ships managed by British Companies
(These rates are exclusive of War bonus paid to each ratings)

Basic wages of Indian Seamen			Basic wages of European and Chinese Seamen		
Ratings	Bombay	Calcutta	Ratings	British Seamen	Chinese Seamen*
<i>Dock Department</i>			<i>Dock Department</i>		
Servant	29/15	29	Able seamen	214	27/12
Tindal	26/18	25/11	Store-keeper	214/10	210/2
Cassab	24/16	23/5	Quartermaster	214/10	26/15 (Sailor)
Secunny	29	22/14 to 23/15	Ordinary Seaman	215	212/10
Lascar	23/6 to 24/10	24/4	Winchman	217/5 to 231/5	210/10
Winchman	25/2	218	Carpenter	216/5 to 218/5	212/10
Carpenter	218	218	Carpenter's Mate	215	212/10 (plus 22 bonus)
Carpenter's Mate	29/16		Water Tender	214/10	
			Painter	216 to 218/5	
			Boatman	216 to 218/5	
<i>Engine Room Department</i>			<i>Engine Room Department</i>		
Servant	29/15	29	Fireman Steward	214	212/10 (plus 22 bonus)
Tindal	26	25/5			
Cassab	24/4	24/4	Store keeper	215/10	213/5
Donkeyman	25/5	24/4	Donkeyman	215/12	28
Greaser	24/16	23/18	Greaser	215	27
Lampman	24/16	23/9	Lamp Trimmer	214/10	28
Fireman	23/3	23/14	Fireman	23/10 to 215	26/15
Trimmer	23/3	24/4	Trimmer	29 to 214	
Painters	25/5		Pumpman	215/10	
Pumpman	29/6	24/4 to 24/13			
Boatman or Freesty	25/11				

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

[10TH Nov. 1944]

Saloon Department		Saloon Department	
Butler	£12/15	Chief Steward	£19/10 to £21/10
Second Butler	£9/15	2nd Steward	£13/10 to £17/10
Chief Cook	£10/10	Saloon Steward	£13
Second Cook	£6	Cook Steward	£17/10
Third Cook	£4/4	Chief Cook	£17/10 to £19/10
Baker	£10/10	Second Cook	£13/10 to £14/10
Butcher	£7/10	Third Cook	£13 to £13/10
Pantryman	£6/15	Baker	£14/10 to £15/10
Store-keeper	£9	Butcher	£14/10 to £15/10
General Servant	£5/2	Pantryman	£14/10
		Store-keeper	£14 to £14/10
		Miss Room Steward	£13
		Assistant Steward	£11/2 to £13
		Assistant Baker	£13/10
		Second Cook and Baker	£14 to £15
		Assistant Butcher	£13/10
		Salor's Cook and Fireman's Cook (Chinese)	£6/15
		No 1 Boy (Chinese)	£7/15

N 23—1 In addition, Indian seamen receive war risk money equivalent to 30 per cent of their present basic wages

2 British and Allied Seamen (including Chinese Seamen) receive war risk money = £10 per month

* A further increase of £1.2s has been sanctioned for each Chinese rating from the 1-6 April 1944

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

EXPLORATORY AND PROSPECTING LICENCES TO BRITISH AND AMERICAN FIRMS AS POTENTIAL OIL RESOURCES.

48. Mr. K. O. Neogy: (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to lay on the table a statement bringing up-to-date the information supplied in the statement that was laid on the table on the 2nd August, 1943, relating to mineral concessions (including exploratory and prospecting licences) granted to British and American firms in respect of potential oil resources in British India?

(b) Is it a fact that licences for carrying on geo-physical explorations have been granted by different Provincial Governments? If so, did the Provincial Governments concerned consult the Government of India before granting such licences?

(c) To which firms have these licences been granted, in respect of which areas, and what are their terms?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: The information is being collected and a statement will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

WHEAT AND SUGAR PURCHASED BY REGIONAL FOOD CONTROLLER, MEERUT.

49. Sardar Mangal Singh: Will the Honourable the Food Member please state

(a) the quantity of wheat and sugar, separately, purchased by the Regional Food Controller, Meerut during the years 1941, 1942, 1943 and to date for each year,

(b) the stations of the Railways at which the said quantity was brought for transport to stations outside,

(c) the local area from where the said quantity was collected; and

(d) how that quantity was disposed of by the said Regional Food Controller?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: An enquiry has been made from the U. P. Government and the information will be laid on the table of the House when received.

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT

SURREPTITIOUS OPENING OF PRIVATE LETTERS BY THE POSTAL DEPARTMENT.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) I have received notice from Mr. Kazmi of his intention to move the adjournment of the business of the Assembly in order to censure the Postal Department of the Government of India for the surreptitious opening of private letters and thereby interfering with the civil liberties of the people of India, as exemplified by the opening of the letter addressed to Dr. Katju, ex-Minister of Justice of the U. P. Government and by mistake enclosing in it another letter which was intended for some other person.

He has appended a letter from Dr. Katju which cannot be treated as part of the motion. I should like to know whether the Honourable Member is referring to censorship, because that has been in existence for a long time.

Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi (Meerut Division, Muhammadan Rural): Yes, Sir, censorship so far as certain letters which are opened and marked by the censor as "opened by examiner". So far as that is concerned, it is a legitimate thing if Government wants to have it done. But then there is another kind of censorship in which letters are opened secretly and then revealed, to show that they have not been opened at all.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) Are these letters opened by censor?

Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi: This letter was opened by the censor. As will appear from Dr. Katju's letter, some friend of Mrs. Vijay Lakshmi Pandit sent a letter to her friend—it appears that both letters were opened at one and the same time and the contents of the letters were interchanged.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) I cannot say that an individual case is necessarily a question of public importance. Is there a general practice to open letters other than by censor? Is that what the

Honourable Member intends to say—that letters are being opened generally without authority of the censor?

Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi: Yes; if it is done generally under the rules, then they must have the decency, as they are doing in some cases, of writing on it "Opened by censor". But here there is no sign that it has been so opened.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim). I would like to know from the Government Member what the facts are

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie (Home Member) Letters are intercepted in accordance with section 26 of the Post Office Act, but I am taking up this matter because the orders regarding the said letters are issued by either the Provincial or the Central Government, i.e., by the Home Department of the Government of India or Home Departments in Provinces

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) How long has this practice been in existence?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: Since 1898

Mr. Sri Prakasa (Allahabad and Jhansi Divisions Non-Muhammadan Rural) The special point in this particular case is that the letters have been interchanged, and that has not been the practice since 1898. This particular case has been brought to your notice because it is particularly bad. In any case, will the Honourable the Home Member say that the practice of interchanging letters has been going on since 1898? This particular incident happened only the day before yesterday, and we received notice of it only this morning. A lady's letter is put in the place of a gentleman's. It is addressed "My dearest Nan". It is a scandal.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) I am afraid I must rule this motion out of order on the facts as stated by the Honourable the Home Member who says, this practice has been in existence since 1898 under the Post Office Act. As regards the individual case, that is not a matter for discussion before this House.

THE CODE OF CRIMINAL PROCEDURE (AMENDMENT) BILL

[AMENDMENT OF SECTIONS 386 AND 539-B]

Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi (Meerut Division Muhammadan Rural) Sir, I beg to move

"That the Bill further to amend the Code of Criminal Procedure 1898 (Amendment of sections 386 and 539B) be continued."

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) The question is "That the Bill further to amend the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898, (Amendment of sections 386 and 539B) be continued."

The motion was adopted.

THE INDIAN PENAL CODE (AMENDMENT) BILL

[INSERTION OF NEW SECTION 93-A]

Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi (Meerut Division Muhammadan Rural) Sir, I beg to move

"That the Bill further to amend the Indian Penal Code (Insertion of new section 93 A) be continued."

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) The question is "That the Bill further to amend the Indian Penal Code (Insertion of new section 93-A) be continued."

The motion was adopted.

THE CODE OF CIVIL PROCEDURE (AMENDMENT) BILL

[AMENDMENT OF SECTION 60]

Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi (Meerut Division Muhammadan Rural) Sir, I beg to move

"That the Bill further to amend the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908, (Amendment of section 60) be continued."

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) The question is "That the Bill further to amend the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908, (Amendment of section 60) be continued."

The motion was adopted.

THE MUSLIM PERSONAL LAW (SHARIAT) APPLICATION (SECOND AMENDMENT) BILL

• **Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kasmi** (Meerut Division Muhammadan Rural).
Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Muslim Personal Law (Shariat) Application Act, 1937, (Second Amendment) be continued."

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) The question is.

"That the Bill further to amend the Muslim Personal Law (Shariat) Application Act, 1937, (Second Amendment) be continued."

The motion was adopted

THE CODE OF CRIMINAL PROCEDURE (AMENDMENT) BILL

[AMENDMENT OF SECTIONS 162, 488 AND 496]

Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kasmi (Meerut Division Muhammadan Rural)

I move.

"That the Bill further to amend the Code of Criminal Procedure 1896, (Amendment of sections 162, 488 and 496), as reported by the Select Committee, be taken into consideration"

This is a Bill which is intended to amend three sections of the Criminal Procedure Code. The first is section 162. The object was this according to section 162 statements of witnesses recorded by an investigating officer in the course of inquiry would be relied upon by the defence and could be put to the witnesses who were examined by the investigating officer in cross-examination as to whether they made such statements or not. After the coming into force of this provision in 1923 some of the investigating officers started a new practice of recording the evidence of two or three or four witnesses jointly. When such cases came up before the courts and the counsel for the defence applied for copies of the statements, they were found to have been recorded jointly and it was held by the High Courts that such joint statements cannot be the statement of any one of them and therefore none of those witnesses could be contradicted by the copy of the statement that was given to the counsel for the defence. This practice practically nullified the provisions of section 162. The amendment that was moved by me has now been accepted by the Select Committee. It is to the effect that if a police officer wants to record both the witnesses' statements, he will record the statements separately.

The other section was section 488 of the Criminal Procedure Code but after a full debate in this Honourable House, this Honourable House did not agree to the principle of that amendment and therefore it is not dealt with in the Report of the Select Committee.

The third amendment contemplated was of section 496. The intention was that in the case of a bailable offence, when a person is convicted by a magistrate, then the magistrate should be allowed to have the authority of giving bail to that man till he obtains an order from the appellate court. As a matter of fact, in all cases of bailable offences, appellate courts gave the bail but the difficulty was that sometimes the appellate authority used to be at a distance from the trial court and a copy of the judgment was required before the appellate court could be moved. The result was great expense on the part of the accused, when he was convicted and great trouble was felt in getting bail for the pendency of the appeal. This was the intention of the Bill, that necessary changes should be made in section 496 of the Criminal Procedure Code to meet that end. In the Select Committee, the question was gone into and they have found that the insertion of these provisions would be more appropriate in section 426 of the Criminal Procedure Code and they have adopted the necessary amendment to that effect in this Bill. So, I move that the Bill as amended by the Select Committee may be taken into consideration.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) Motion moved

"That the Bill further to amend the Code of Criminal Procedure 1896, (Amendment of sections 162, 488 and 496), as reported by the Select Committee, be taken into consideration"

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai (Sind Non-Muhammadan Rural) Sir, I support the motion. I was a member of the Select Committee to consider this Bill.

Originally, what was intended was this, that police statements which are taken at an earlier stage of the case and are considered always to be very important, were given by the Police under section 162 of the Criminal Procedure Code by writing down those statements for use at a later stage of the case. Subsequently they followed a method which virtually took away the concession that was given under section 162 to the accused persons to cross-examine and bring out contradictions in the evidence at a later stage. The Mover of this Bill wanted that those statements should be written down wholly of what the witness says. The changed practice of the police was that they used to make small notes, sometimes in the diaries, which were not shown to the accused. Subsequently some notes used to be shown. Now, the object of this Bill was that those statements may be actually written down and those statements should be given to the accused for cross-examination as required under section 162. So far as that concession is concerned, the Select Committee has approved of it and it has to be put into the statute book.

With regard to that, however, I submit that another question should be considered now by the Home Member and by the departments in the provinces as to why in every case the police officer should not be bound to record the statements. At present as this amendment has been made, it is left to the police officer to make the statement or not and nullify the object of this Bill. I suggest that a circular should be issued to ask the police officers to record these statements in every case so that justice may not be cheated and the accused may have sufficient justice by referring to those statements and having them for the purpose of contradiction. The other concession that was asked for, was under section 496 of the Criminal Procedure Code. Now, it has been found that it would be more appropriate to make that amendment in section 426. Now, that provision is this. When an accused is convicted and sentenced to imprisonment by a Magistrate, then the Magistrate is not seized of that case any further for the purpose of giving bail until an appeal is preferred. Generally appeals are made when persons are convicted, but the conviction and sentence are also subject to final decision of the Appellate Court. Therefore hardship was noticed and recognised also in many cases, that the trying Magistrate who decided the case was handicapped by leaving no power to give bail until the time an appeal was filed. Of course there is no provision in Criminal Procedure Code giving power to the original court to give bail. So far as that is concerned, in respect of bailable offences only, this Bill now provides that in such cases the Magistrate will have discretion. But what about the non-bailable cases? Very many non-bailable cases also come before the courts, where they are very petty and yet the Magistrate gives imprisonment. Why should not discretion be left to the court in such non-bailable cases also? There are very many cases on the border line . . .

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) Non-bailable cases are not within the scope of this Bill.

Mr. Lalchand Navalsrai: I know bailable cases only are included in this Bill and that is why I am asking about non-bailable cases.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) The Honourable Member cannot discuss the question of non-bailable cases now.

Mr. Lalchand Navalsrai: I am only throwing out a suggestion for consideration of the Government.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) The Honourable Member must confine himself to the provisions of this Bill.

Mr. Lalchand Navalsrai: I have already covered the provisions. I have said that it is all right so far as bailable cases go, but as regards non-bailable cases, the Government should issue a circular.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) It is not relevant to this Bill.

Mr. Lalchand Navalsrai: In that case, I shall give notice of a separate Bill for that purpose. So, the two concessions that were asked for have been examined and granted. Sir, I congratulate the Honourable the Mover of this Bill and I lend my support to the measure.

[10TH Nov. 1944]

The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy (Law Member): Sir, there is only just one point to which I desire to refer in lending my support to this motion. Honourable Members will remember that when the Bill was referred to the Select Committee on 11th February 1943, my predecessor indicated that in the Select Committee, the Government would endeavour to secure the omission of clauses 3 and 4 of the original Bill. In the result, the Select Committee decided to omit clause 3, and to retain the substance of clause 4, which is now clause 3. In deference to the opinion of the House, as reflected in the Select Committee, Government decided to acquiesce in the Select Committee's view. I hope, Sir, that the House will allow us some small measure of credit for this manifestation of responsiveness.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is,

"That the Bill further to amend the Code of Criminal Procedure 1898, (Amendment of sections 162, 438 and 496), as reported by the Select Committee, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 and 3 were added to the Bill.

Clause 1 was added to the Bill.

The Title and the Preamble were added to the Bill.

Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi: Sir, I move

"That the Bill, as amended by the Select Committee, be passed."

Sir, in making this motion, I have to express my feelings of gratefulness to the Members of the Select Committee and to the Honourable Members of this House and especially the Honourable the Law Member who has been very sympathetic throughout the discussions in the Select Committee. As a matter of fact, it was with his help that we were able to carry the amendments regarding the bail of persons who are convicted in bailable offences. It was with his help, again, that we have succeeded in bringing that amendment also before the House. All the Members worked very sympathetically and they have all done something which may go to relieve persons who are often tried by Criminal Courts. Sir, I move that the Bill be passed.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Motion moved.

"That the Bill, as amended by the Select Committee, be passed."

Sardar Sant Singh (West Punjab Sikh): Sir, I take this opportunity of congratulating the Honourable the Law Member for the liberalising influence that he has brought to bear on the Government of India when Bills moved by non-officials are concerned. I wish I could have given notice of some of the amendments to the Criminal Procedure Code which I had been sponsoring without much success in his predecessor's time. It encourages me now to give notice of some of them in the hope that the time will come when he will extend the same liberal influence to my suggestions as he has done in the case of my Honourable friend Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi. With these words I support the motion for passing the Bill.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is,

"That the Bill, as amended by the Select Committee, be passed."

The motion was adopted.

THE HINDU MARRIAGE DISABILITIES REMOVAL BILL

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh (Nagpur Division Non-Muhammadian): Sir, I move

"That the Bill to remove legal disabilities under Hindu Law in respect of marriage between Hindus be referred to a Select Committee consisting of the Honourable Sir Asoka Roy, Mr. N. M. Joshi, Mr. Lalchand Navalkar, Sardar Sant Singh, Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari, Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya, Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall, Mr. Ananga Mohan Das, Mr. G. Rangiah Naidu, Mr. K. C. Neogy, Mr. Hosenbhow A. Jalljee, Rao Bahadur N. Siva Raj, Dr. Sir Ratnaji Dinshaw Dalal, Mr. T. Chapman Mortimer, Mr. Sri Prakasa, Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan, Dr. G. V. Deshmukh, and the Mover and that the number of Members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the Committee shall be five."

Whenever I come up with a motion to refer this Bill to Select Committee there is always a request from the Law Member. I have often accepted that

request but there are so many hurdles in the way, like the promised Revised Hindu Code, that I cannot help moving this motion. The facts briefly are that first there was a request to withdraw the motion because the Marriage Bill was to come up before the House, next time it was said that the new Code was coming up, then we were told that the draft Code was not ready because a revised Code was to come after taking evidence of witnesses, etc. So one does not know where one is and this motion becomes necessary. My Honourable friend wants me to play a waiting game even now but one cannot wait indefinitely. Even now if the Law Member can give me an assurance that the revised Hindu Code will be brought forward at the beginning or middle of the next Budget Session, I may accept his request.

The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy (Law Member) No, I shall give no further assurance to my Honourable friend, because I find that if I give him an assurance and I implement my part of the bargain he does not stick to his part of the bargain.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: I have already stated the facts. I am sorry to hear the charge that I am not playing the game. I have played the game and would have continued to play the game if the revised Hindu Code was coming after a definite period.

Sir, it will be gathered from the Statement of Objects and Reasons that I have brought forward this Bill because Hindus suffer from the disability of marrying between different sub-castes of the same caste and also among parties belonging to the same *gotra* or *paran*. This Bill is a permissive Bill which says that such persons can marry, there is no compulsion on any body or restriction of anybody's legal rights. So the objection raised by my Honourable friend Mr. Bajpai that this Bill is unfair to Hindus and it interferes with their religion is not correct. Clause 2 which is the operative clause runs thus:

"Notwithstanding any custom, rule or interpretation of the Hindu Law a marriage which is otherwise valid shall not be invalid because—

(i) it is between Hindus belonging to the same *gotra* or *paran* or

(ii) it is between Hindus belonging to different subdivisions of the same caste."

So restrictions of other kinds, like prohibition of marriages among *sapindas*, are not affected. Persons who are not *sapindas* but belong to the same *gotra* or *paran* should be able to marry and have their marriage recognised as valid. That is the object of the Bill. I have mentioned in my Statement of Objects and Reasons about the usual practice of getting a daughter adopted by a man of a different *gotra* and then giving her in marriage to a man of another *gotra*, in order to avoid this difficulty. But I have also said that such adoption is not valid because under Hindu law there can be no adoption of a female. Therefore such marriages would be held invalid by any court of law and the children of such marriages would in law be illegitimate and succession to property would take a different course. Therefore in order to get over this difficulty I have suggested a positive law instead of resorting to subterfuges. Now objection is taken on the ground of eugenics by some people that *gotra* refers to blood relationship and blood relatives cannot be allowed to marry. But in other communities you find that cousins and other blood relatives are allowed to marry and there has thereby been no deterioration in the race. From the eugenic point of view you cannot say that they have suffered in any way. However I am prohibiting marriages even among *sapindas* to the seventh degree. Again, this argument would be valid if the blood ties continued indefinitely. But after the seventh degree no Hindu observes mourning for a dead relative. The Shastric injunction is not to observe the tie of relationship after the seventh degree. I do not see therefore, even when it is not harmful from the eugenic point of view, why on the ground of blood relationship the *sagotra* (tie of blood, if it is at all—of thousands of years) marriage should be prohibited.

So far as marriages among different sub-castes are concerned, they are not illegal but a false belief persists and priests emphasise that such marriages are illegal. It will be gathered from public opinion to which I referred in my speech on 21st March, 1941, pages 1744 and 1748 (Vol. III) and in March 1943 (Page 1492) that 80 per cent of public opinion is in favour of removing this

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bar to *sagotra* and *saprarav* marriages, 10 per cent. are indifferent, and 10 per cent are from different branches of the same organisation which means only one opinion. If we take this percentage into account we find that there is a mass of public opinion in favour of this change which is desirable from every point of view. One should not expect that there would be unanimous opinion in favour of any law. As a matter of fact, one finds that in the case of Hindu Marriage Bills which have been drafted and circulated for eliciting Hindu public opinion by the Rau Committee that there is a large section of public opinion which is against them. If it is said that we should wait till the whole law is changed and not go in for piecemeal legislation, I would say that to get the Code through in this Assembly is like breaking one's head against the wall, my fear is that this Code may not see the light of day for many years to come and it may not become law. So it is both convenient and desirable that a Bill like the one which I have brought forward should be passed although it is piecemeal. Sir, I have shown in the Statement of Objects and Reasons what the advantages would be in modifying the law and introducing the system which I am suggesting. It enlarges the scope of selection for desirable bridegrooms, a person who has a daughter will have a wider scope of selection of a bridegroom from persons of the same as well as from different *gotras* or *pravara*s and different sub-castes. The Hindu Society must look at this Bill from the point of view that this Bill will consolidate the Hindu Society. As it is, there are so many divisions, sub-divisions, sub-divisions of sub-divisions. There are not only what one may call religious or customary restrictions, but there are territorial restrictions—in Bengal for instance. Persons from South Bengal are not allowed to marry persons in North Bengal and of East Bengal with West Bengal. In a place where the Hindu community is only 10 or 15 per cent one can imagine what difficulties the father of a girl would have to face to find a desirable bridegroom, and one is not surprised to find as a consequence of these restrictions that the dowry that is demanded by the bridegroom or his father and guardians is becoming higher and higher and girls in most cases are not married at their proper age. One always reads about suicides by girls as a result of such consequences in newspapers.

I was given to understand from some speeches which were made by the Opposition that there were only few *rishis* and only one of one name who are supposed to be related even to the present generation. Sir, I find from the speech of Mr Aney which he delivered in this House on Friday the 21st March 1941 that this theory one *rishi*—one name does not hold good. We were all under the impression that there were different sets of *rishis* only one by his own name and there were no two *rishis* of the same name, but I find from Mr Aney's speech that that is not so. In other words, it could not, therefore, be said that there was a definite set of *rishis* to whom all the Hindus are related. Sir, I will now quote from Mr Aney's speech.

"If the principle of this Bill is to be accepted there is nothing to be done so far as the Select Committee is concerned. Either it should be accepted or thrown out. That is the position. But we have to see whether if we do that, there will be a fair support to this kind of reform which my friend wants to bring about in the existing marriage system of the Hindus. Among what are considered as the essential ingredients of the Hindu marriage, there are three conditions laid down by the Smritis from the days of Manu to the present day, notwithstanding various other changes in the marriage form these three conditions have been regarded as of paramount importance; namely, the boy and the girl must not belong to the same *gotra* they must not have the same *pravara* and they must not be of the same *sapinda*. These are the conditions laid down there—that they must not have the same *gotra* and the same *pravara*. One of my friends asked the question of my friend, Mr Deshmukh what is this *pravara*? I do not know if the time is enough to explain this thing to my friend—it will take a good deal of time, because there are few among the Brahmins themselves who are in a position to explain clearly what difference this *pravara* makes and how it is to be distinguished from the *gotra* but one of the tests given is this, and that is laid down in one of the text books; it defines *pravara* as

'*Gotra pravartakasya rishih Vyavartakayam rishigana'*

Group of *Rishis* distinguishing the *Gotra-Rishi*, i.e. the propositions of the clan from another.

Those names of *rishis* which enable a man to distinguish definitely one *gotra* from another. Each *gotra* has got three or four *rishis* or five *rishis* as *pravaras* if these *pravaras* *rishis* are the same, then the *gotra* may be considered to be the same, but if the names of the *pravaras* themselves are different then the *gotras* although they may have the same name must be understood as different."

So, one cannot say that there was only one *rishi* by that name and from that particular *rishi* the present generation amongst the Hindus, who are governed by *pravaras*, descends. To distinguish the two *rishis* of the same name there are *pravaras*. This fact I would especially like to emphasise because I myself was under the impression, and some other members of this House were also under the same impression, that there were certain *rishis* each one by himself. For instance, a Kasyap *rishi*, and there was no other Kasyap. But according to Mr. Aney there were two Kasyap *rishis*, so that it cannot be said that the descendants of Kasyap are the descendants of the same Kasyap. While I was arguing my case on the last occasion I overlooked to mention this point, and that is why I wish to emphasise it today. Mr. Aney then proceeds:

"The *pravaras* have been mentioned with a view to enable a man to see whether what appears to be an identical *gotra* is really identical or is a separate or a distinct *gotra* or not; and so an artificial system has been created in order to distinguish a seeming identity between *gotras*, and the reason was that the importance of ascertaining the *gotra* was extremely essential for the sake of permitting one girl to be married to another man. The greatest emphasis was placed upon this point, that no woman, belonging to the same *gotra*

Sometimes the name of the *gotra* appears to be the same. It may be that the girl comes from the Gautam *gotra*, and it may be that the boy also comes from the Gautam *gotra*, but whether the Gautam *gotra* from which the girl comes is the same Gautam from whom the boy claims descent or not is to be known from the fact whether the *pravaras* of the Gautam of the girl are the same as the *pravaras* of the other Gautam. If there is a difference between them then we can take it that these two Gautams are two different entities and not the same and the marriage between them is legal."

This is why a list of *rishis* is appended to each *gotra*. This is a very complicated matter and certainly the Select Committee cannot come to one opinion easily. Further on he says:

"It is true that facilities are already provided for on account of the passing of the Special Marriage Act and so on, but even in that case if a man is a party to a special marriage he has to dispose with all the Vedic and ceremonial rites which have to be performed in accordance with religion. Therefore there is an earnest desire amongst people that they should be able to observe all these ceremonial and religious rites at the same time without observing these rigid conditions. A system of compromise is gradually cropping up. My friend, Mr. Deshmukh, belongs to that school which wants to stand for those who want to compromise religious practices to satisfy the exigencies of society. My friend Mr. Bajoria, stands for the rigid school—no compromise with anything at all—the *shastras* are there either follow them or say 'I owe no allegiance to them'."

Mr. Aney goes on:

"My friend (Mr. Deshmukh) wants to kill two birds with one stone. He not merely wants to bring about a little reform by removing the difficulties of *pravaras* and *sagotra*, but he wants to bring about reforms in order to introduce inter marriages in the higher classes who have got something to do with the *gotra* and *pravara*, but there is another large class of Hindus who have nothing to do with *pravara* and *gotra*. Those who do not belong to the twice born classes have nothing to do with *gotra* and *pravara*, while the second thing will affect them most, because each caste has within its fold several sub-castes."

"There is no question of religion. If any reform is to be introduced it will be difficult to say how it will be received by them. We have to ascertain their opinion."

We have found that 80 per cent of the public opinion which was gathered is on my side, and as Mr. Aney says, I seek to have a compromise by bringing in this permissive Bill. I do not take away anybody's right and as Mr. Aney has put it, I am trying to find out a way to meet these two views. There are persons who wish to get over their difficulties by finding suitable brides and bridegrooms and in order to expand the sphere of selection they want that this restriction should be removed. My view is that if you wish to observe restrictions observe them; those who do not wish to observe them need not. If you wish that under the Hindu law, by accepting this amendment, the marriage should be considered valid—and I have given you the compromise formula—it will be so upheld. There is one thing which I should like to bring very prominently before I conclude. Those who are labouring under the impression that there are no two *rishis* of the same name but only

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one, and that the present generation of that *gotra* are the descendants of that *rishi*, for them it is high time to consider how could any person who belongs to a particular *gotra* and lived in Kashmere in the good old days have any blood relationship with the person of the same *gotra* who lived say in Madras. In the opinions which I have cited in the previous debates in most of the provinces these restrictions are not observed and I have given the opinion of the Government Advocate of Orissa that it was good that this sort of restriction was not observed in Orissa otherwise the Brahmmins there would have been extinct long ago, and that all these marriages although they take place in the same *gotra* are valid. In provinces like the Punjab and the United Provinces this system is not observed. If it is observed, it is really in Bengal, the Bombay and C P and Madras, and to those who live in Madras I would say 'If you really consider that these persons of the same *gotra* are related and they should not marry and that from the eugenic point of view it is not good, how is it that you allow marriages between a maternal uncle's daughter and the paternal uncle's son. Having regard to these facts and the arguments I have advanced, I move that this Bill, which is a most essential Bill, be referred to Select Committee.

• Sir, I move

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdul Rahim) Motion moved

That the Bill to remove legal disabilities under Hindu law in respect of marriage between Hindus be referred to a Select Committee consisting of the Honourable Sir Asoka Roy, Mr. N. M. Joshi, Mr. Lalchand Narayan, Sardar Sant Singh, Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari, Mr. Anantendra Nath Chattopadhyaya, Mr. Kailash Bihari Lal, Mr. Ananga Mohan Das, Mr. G. Rangiah Naidu, Mr. K. C. Neogy, Mr. Hoo-sin-hov A. Laljee, Rao Bahadur N. Siva Raju, Dr. Sri Batynji Dhanshaw Dalal, Mr. T. Chapman Motimeri, Mr. Sri Prakasa, Shrimati K. Rudra Bai Subhayan, Dr. G. V. Deshmukh, and the Member and that the number of Members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the Committee shall be five.

Mr. Sri Prakasa (Allahabad and Jhansi Divisions, Non-Muhammadan Rural). We in our country seem really to be a museum of customs and of ceremonies, and because some particular custom was good at some particular stage, it becomes in the course of time, accepted as part of our religion. Thus every time when it seems necessary to change any particular rite or ceremony or custom there is a cry of religion being in danger. I am not one of those who get frightened by such cries, and to say honestly, I should be glad if all religions got into danger and we left to live in peace. I think, Sir, that it is wrong to suggest that whenever a custom has been followed for a long period of time it should invariably become a part of religion and must be so followed till the end of time. I think, Sir, customs grow because of the exigencies of the situation, they grow because of the necessities of the hour, and as soon as those exigencies and those necessities exist no more, I feel that, religion or no religion, those customs must be changed if humanity is to live and to progress. As things are, the set of people known as Hindus—and, as you know, it is very difficult to define what exactly a Hindu is—have endless manners and customs on all sorts of things, and the manners and customs of one Hindu differ from the manners and customs of another Hindu even to the extent of shocking each other, I doubt if there are such marked differences among the followers of other faiths.

Among the Hindus they have a system of castes. I am told that at one time it was ordained that there would be only four castes and that there could not be a fifth caste. Now, if the census reports are to be believed, we have about four thousand castes, and innumerable sub-castes that have come into being through the centuries do not exactly know under what main caste to array themselves. They therefore regard themselves as separate castes altogether. It is said that from different parts of Brahma different castes were born. It is a difficult proposition for a non-medical person like myself to investigate, but my friend, Mr. Manu Subedar seemed to think that there were both natural and unnatural processes for the birth of cattle, and if it can be believed that different parts of the

body of *Brahma* (who, I believe, is a male person) could have given out the four castes to the world, then I take it that human children like Mr Subedar's cattle, can also be born from various parts of the body. We have thus four main castes, but sub-castes are four thousand in number, and it so happens that members of the same sub-caste or sub-sub-caste alone can marry each other. This has created a great deal of confusion.

While the humble members of the community, the so-called "*sudras*", are not worried with differentiations of *gotra* and *pravara*, the higher castes are constantly being worried by these considerations. So long as the system prevailed that parents arranged the marriages of their children, so long they took into consideration the *gotras* and *pravaras* of the families with whom they wanted alliances. Even they were greatly inconvenienced on many occasions, when they had to give up very desirable alliances, because of the accident of a common *gotra* or *pravara*. And therefore, as my Honourable friend Mr Deshmukh said, a ruse was sometimes resorted to by which the girl was supposed for purposes of marriage, to be the daughter of some relative who was in another *gotra*, because the parents wanted that desirable marriage. They adopted this subterfuge, which was scarcely honest. When even parents find it difficult to arrange suitable alliances in conditions as they are, and have to give up many desirable matches (one instance in my own family is before me as I speak, where we had to give up what we thought would have been a very desirable alliance because of a common *gotra*), the problem becomes very much more difficult, when under the stress of modern thought and in imitation of the customs of the West that have come to us, many young folks desire to have what are called love marriages. When a young man and a young woman happen to like each other to such an extent that they would like to marry, then they are not very much worried about the *gotras* and *pravaras* of each other.

Thus if we insist on the continuation of the old ideology, we are bound to get into many complications and difficulties, and I feel that when a custom has got stratified as a part of religion and when it seems that it would be right to change that custom, there is no other method except legislation that can come to the rescue. I think that the time is ripe when in the matter of marriages, our legislatures should interfere actively, because I think a great deal of harm is done to our race by marriages that are improper and ill-assorted. However orthodox we may be, we are all very careful about the breed of cattle, of plants and of fruits. We have cross-fertilisation. We undergo a great deal of trouble to transplant grafts from different places in our gardens and villages in order to have better rice, better wheat, better flowers and better fruits. But when it comes to those for whom all these processes are undertaken, when it comes to the welfare of human beings themselves, we are absolutely indifferent. I think it is a crying shame that we should neglect a better assortment of marriage alliances among human beings, when we are so keen on proper alliances among our cattle, our fruit trees and our flower plants. I therefore think that legislation should come to the rescue of a community that is hopelessly devitalised, that is almost committing suicide, because of its wrong alliances, and unless the Legislature comes to our aid, I do not think that this community has any very great chance of surviving the struggle for existence.

Sir, it may be news to many Members of the House, even Hindu Members—it was certainly news to me when I first learnt about it—that down South, in Madras maternal uncles marry their nieces, their sisters' daughter. On this side, this is a shocking procedure. The Right Honourable Srinivasa Sastri told me that a father-in-law, in Tamil Nad, is usually called 'Nana', that is grandfather, because he is the father of the maternal uncle who, in turn, is the husband of the grand-daughter. Among the Andhras it is not only customary but almost obligatory for maternal cousins to marry. That I found out from an Andhra friend of mine to my great surprise.

Now, Sir, such marriages should be barred by law, even if they have the sanction of religion, because I do think that they go counter to the very

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healthy rule that prohibits marriages within certain degrees of consanguinity. Such marriages should be barred as they are against the law of eugenics, and even if the whole of the province rises in rebellion, I think we ought to have sufficient strength to be able to suppress that rebellion. Government is always very keen about suppressing all sorts of political rebellions. They are very brave when non-violent politicians are concerned, they are very grand in their condemnation of anything that they think is wrong in the political sphere, but they gladly accede to wrong doing in the social and the religious spheres. I think it is time that Government woke up to their duties. They are not only a police government whose one purpose of existence is to keep what is called law and order. I think any decent Government has, as one of its paramount duties, the welfare of the people under its charge.

Whenever we talk of having good laws in order to reform Hindu society socially, they say it is a matter of religion, and they cannot interfere and the people concerned should themselves take interest in such matters. But how are the people concerned to take interest unless the law comes to their rescue, and what is the use of law unless the Government is prepared to use the force at its command to see to it that the law is observed. It is a fact known to you and to me and to all Members of the House, that though we have made it a cognisable offence for minors to marry, heaps of minors still continue to be married, and the marriage processions go on public streets, and every one knows from the very size of the bride and bridegroom walking in them that they are not of the legal age to marry. The authorities are indifferent. If that is the attitude of the Government, of course, nothing can be done. If they feel that the only purpose for which they are here is to see that everybody keeps quiet and everybody pays his taxes and that there is no hullabaloo of any sort, then, of course, it is for them to do what they think is best in their own interests, but as a normal student of political science, I do think that that is not the sole purpose of government.

There are many marriage customs that have to go, there are many new marriage customs that have to come, and while I feel that marriages, such as I have mentioned, that are extant in the two parts of Madras—Andhra and Tamil Nad—should be abolished, there are other systems that should be introduced, and even if a permissive Bill like the one before the House is passed there is no doubt that it will be taken advantage of by large numbers of persons. A person like me is not usually very much afraid either of the wrath of Government or of society. Just as Government put me in jail for about three years for political crimes and misdemeanours, so has my particular sub-caste ostracised me for the last thirty years for the simple crime of crossing the seas. I did not care for this and I did not care for that, but I must say—and I confess it with sorrow—that I am very nervous when it comes to the marriage front. I always yield on that front. I want to marry my sons and my daughters into other communities, but I dare not do that. I faced the *lathi* blows of the Government quite cheerfully. I even faced ostracism from my particular caste without a tear, though it meant a great deal of inconvenience. But I am always nervous lest my grandchildren should be regarded as illegitimate.

When I feel like that, humble as I am, I know others must be feeling it more. Others who are always anxious not to offend either the Government or their social authorities would be feeling far more nervous than I do. Therefore I think that it is in my interest, and in the interests of all those who feel like me, that some reforms must be introduced. I know many friends say "You can have civil marriages." But civil marriages do not satisfy the soul. I may be wrong; but I also feel like many others that I should like to have those beautiful ceremonies at the time of marriage. It gives me some soul satisfaction.

An Honourable Member: You can have both!

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Then I also find a little bound by the ties of the joint family. I do not like my family property that happens to be almost impartible in its nature, to be forcibly divided up because one of my children has to undergo a civil marriage on account either of my desire to marry him outside the community or his falling in love with a person who is not of my particular community. In these circumstances I do think that a reform of the nature promulgated in this Bill should be accepted by this House.

The Bill, as I find it, is divided into two parts. One part says that Hindus belonging to the same *gotra* or *pravara* should be allowed to marry, provided of course they do not come within the prohibited degrees of consanguinity. The other part is that marriages between the different sub-divisions of the same caste should be legally recognised. As regards the first part, I feel I have said enough. I will only add one thing. It sometimes happens that persons have migrated from one part of the country to another. Many migrations, for instance, had taken place from Rajputana to United Provinces and Bihar in the olden days, and it may happen that two families belong to the same *gotra* or *pravara* or both, but a marriage alliance between them both is desirable. One family resides, let us say, in Rajputana or the Punjab, and the other in the United Provinces or Bihar. There cannot be any possible harm physiologically if a marriage is contracted, but if they happen to be of the same *gotra* or *pravara*, such marriages are banned. So, I feel that the House would be doing good service to the Hindu community if it permits such marriages.

The second part of the Bill says that members of subdivisions of the same caste should also be allowed to marry. There is no law about it. Many people feel that they cannot marry. Lawyers give conflicting opinions on this subject. There are, I understand, conflicting rulings of various High Courts on this subject. Some High Courts feel that marriages like that are permissible, other High Courts feel that such marriages are not permissible. Moreover a further difficulty arises very often. No one is sure as to whether two particular sub-castes belong to the same caste. Then there are common names of castes that cause confusion. For instance, there is a large class in the U P that is called Kavasth. There is a large class in Bengal which is also called Kayasth, but lawyers are not sure whether the Kayasthas of Bengal can marry the Kayasthas of U P, even if both go by the name of Kayasth. Then no one is sure, Sir, whether the Kayasth belongs to the Brahmin caste as I think he does because he is a man of the pen; or whether he is a Kshatriya, as many U P Kavasthas claim to be or whether he is a Sudra as many people specially in Bengal, recognise him to be. Because of this difficulty, Sir, you may be interested to know, or perhaps you know it already—you know much more than I do—that the Kayasthas regard themselves as a separate caste altogether. They say the Brahmin was born from the mouth of Brahma, the Kshatriya was born from the arms of Brahma—a curious anatomical process—the Vaishya was born from the thigh of Brahma, the Sudra was born from the feet of Brahma, but the Kayasth was born from the whole *kaya*, that is, the body. *Kaye tishthati iti Kayasthak!* That is why according to them it can safely be said that the Kayastha was born from the whole body of Brahma. That is another difficulty, and there may be many other castes or sub-castes who may be claiming other parts of Brahma's body as their originators.

When there are these difficulties, the law should permit legal marriages between the various communities, and if as things stand they cannot immediately allow marriages among all the communities of India, they at least should permit marriages among the sub-castes of the same caste, and if, Sir, we pass this Bill into an Act, we should be reforming Hindu marriages and trying to improve the very race of the Hindus at one stroke. I understand, Sir, that there is a Code on the legislative anvil. My Honourable friend the Leader of the House has already moved one part of that Code. I understand that other parts are also now ready, and I see in the newspapers that a big

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book has been circulated to various persons in different provinces. It has been my complaint in this House,—and I repeat what I said at the time of Sri N. N. Sircar—that while all these books are circulated to all manner of persons, they are not supplied to Members of the House.

Mr. N. M. Joshi (Nominated Non-Official). They have a contempt for the Legislature

Mr. Sri Prakasa: I wish they were supplied to us even for payment. I have been anxious to get a copy of this volume. I understand it is a fairly bulky one. I have not yet succeeded in having a look at it. I have seen the Bill that was introduced by the Honourable the Leader of the House, and I am very much in sympathy with that Bill; and I am sure I should be in sympathy with the Code as now drafted by the Honourable the Law Member, if only I had a chance to look at it. It is not in the market. It is not supplied to us. I do not know where I can find it. I know that some persons have received it and when I asked those who have got copies to lend it to me, they love the Code so much that they would not part with it. I got a copy of Sir Sultan Ahmed's Bill from the Legislative Office. I wrote for it, but the other thing is not in charge of the Legislative Office and therefore it cannot be delivered to me and I do not know where I am going to get it. I believe that before long I shall get a copy with or without payment.

Now, Sir, I do not know what exactly that Code contains and I can give no opinion on it, but I take it that it is intended to reform Hindu society in various other spheres, and though I was not able to catch the exact purport of the *tete-a-tete* between the Honourable the Law Member and my Honourable friend Mr. Deshmukh.

The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy: That was hardly a *tete-a-tete*.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Was it a sort of *marpeet*? I gather that each was accusing the other of something that the other had not done! But in any case I did gather that the Honourable the Law Member felt that the House should wait for the coming in of that Code and not hurry up matters, but the difficulty is that men on the verge of marriage cannot wait. They are proverbially in a hurry. They do not even wait for their parents' consent, let alone the Code of the Honourable the Law Member! The Honourable the Law Member himself and his colleagues have passed beyond that stage, and so, they can wait till they are born again, if they are born again.

An Honourable Member: They have children.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: They have children, but evidently they want the children to go the way they themselves have gone and so they are in no hurry. In any case I am in a hurry, because I have my children also. And I do not want to get into trouble and I want them to keep to the joint family, and not rebel from me, and I want to have more daughters-in-law in the house. Because of these considerations, I very strongly support the Bill of my Honourable friend Mr. Deshmukh and commend it to the unanimous acceptance of the House.

The Assembly then adjourned for Lunch till Three of the Clock.

The Assembly re-assembled after Lunch at Three of the Clock, Mr. Abdul Quayum (one of the Panel of Chairmen) in the Chair.

Mr. G. Rangiah Naidu (Madras City. Non-Muhammādan Urban). Mr. Chairman, although I am a healthy old man of 75 years of age, I can speak on this subject for hours together if time is given to me.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: There is no time-limit.

Mr. G. Rangiah Naidu: I am an orthodox Hindu who reads every day Bhagwat Gita and performs his Puja. I am a Hindu of the same type as my Honourable friends Mr. Bajoria and Mr. Dam Bnt. I have always been very keen on the reformation of the Hindu society. There are so many evils present in the Hindu society today that it is going down and down every day.

If we, the Hindus, do not come forward from today to reform our society in the near future, there will be no sign of Hindu society in India. Sir, this is the most important, simple and harmless Bill to the society. Among the Hindus in different parts of India there are different customs in respect of marriages. The customs of marriages in south India are quite different to those prevailing in other parts of India.

Sir, there are four castes amongst the Hindus. In Bhagwat Gita it is said:

"Chaturvarnyam mayā arishtam Gun Karm vibhāgaḥ"

Lord Krishna said that there are four castes—the Brahmins, the Kshatriyas, the Vaishyas and the Shudras. I do not know who is the Shudra now, who is the Brahmin now and who is the Vaishya now? Everybody is doing business. Even the business which is prohibited for a Brahmin is now being done by a Brahmin. The hotels are being run by Brahmins; the Aiyars and the Aiyangars are there. Even the shoe shops are being run by the Brahmins. The business of the Brahmin is to read the Vedas and the Upanishads. But the Brahmin who is running a shoe shop is not a Brahmin. The Brahmin who is selling food is not a Brahmin. Even whisky is now being sold by Brahmins. How can they claim to be Brahmins? So, I say there are no Brahmins in the whole of India now.

Then, there is no Vaishya. The Vaishya's business is now being done by everybody. I am not a Vaishya, I should be called a Shudra. But I am not even a Shudra because I am doing cultivation. I am a born agriculturist. But the business of a Shudra is to serve others belonging to the three castes. So, I am not serving either the Vaishyas or the Kshatriyas but I am serving the whole country by means of cultivation. I am feeding everybody, from Brahmin to ant.

Mr. Badri Dutt Pande (Rohilkund and Kumaon Divisions Non-Muhammadan Rural) But this is a marriage Bill.

Mr. G. Rangiah Naidu: I am coming to that. Without food how can you have marriage? First you must feed everybody and then you can marry.

Sir, the Hindu society has now become a very corrupt society. Some superstitious gentlemen and some orthodox gentlemen still say that marriages should be restricted. They seem to suggest that the old custom should be adopted even by those who have been entirely Westernised and who have been eating in hotels without discrimination. There is no discrimination in hotels, everybody is eating on one table.

The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy: Sir, I would like to hear my Honourable friend very much, but there is so much noise going on that I can't hear him at all.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: There is always noise at the time of marriage.

Mr. G. Rangiah Naidu: In these days, unless the Hindu society comes forward to remove all evil customs and reform the society, it will go to dogs within a period of 10 to 15 years. The Hindu society will disappear from this land of Aryas, if orthodox people should resist reform in the society. In my part of the country, there is a custom to marry sister's daughter or the maternal uncle's daughter. In my own family, my sister was given in marriage to my maternal uncle and her daughter I married. We were born and brought up in the same house, and in my case, it was a love marriage. There may be other customs in other parts of India. For instance amongst Muslims, they have their own customs. In order to bring solidarity among the Hindus, in order to remove all disabilities for the sake of future development of the country and the society, we must come forward and accept such measures as the present one. I may tell the House that much stronger measures are coming at the next Session—the Civil Marriage Bill. It may give a rude shock to my orthodox friends like Mr. Ananga Mohan Das and Babu Bijnath Baijoria. If my daughter is given in marriage to a Sikh, no objection should be raised to it. The present Bill is a harmless Bill. *Sagotra* marriages are permissible, but *sapinda* marriages are objectionable. Supposing there is a man in Nagpur and a man

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with the same *gotra* lives in Madras. What objection can there be for an alliance between these two families. Amongst Muslims, they can marry father's brother's daughter. Different customs prevail among different communities. This is Kaliyuga. Our friends want to stick to Shastras which were written several thousand years ago. The Manu Smriti was composed in Krita Yuga. Who is Manu to dictate to us in this twentieth century? It is laid down in Manu Smriti that if a Sudra listens to the recital of Vedas, then molten lead should be poured into his ears. Can we do this now under the British Raj? It is impossible that any Brahman can take courage to pour molten lead into the ears of a Sudra for the simple fault of the Sudra listening to Veda recital. So, we must change society according to the spirit of the times. If we do not change our customs according to the needs of the times, we shall never become united. Take the European community. They have been in India for the last nearly 200 years. Have they changed their national customs? They do not wear a dhoti like me, they do not wear a shirt like me, they do not wear an upper cloth like me. They do not put on caste marks, like namam and other things. Simply because they have stuck to their own customs and habits, they are united in this land and they are able to rule over us. They go to foreign countries as a united nation and rule over the natives of those lands. They do not adopt the customs of the land where they rule. Therein lies their strength. For the same reason, they have been exploiting this country. They have been exploiting so many colonies on account of their united customs and united strength. But we are not so. If we go beyond India, we are dubbed as outcastes. We are asked to do *prayaschit*, we are not taken into society. The first question that is put to a man who has returned from overseas is

Yeh badmash vilayat jakar aya Karo ise bahishkar. Hindu samaj is tarah kahta hai. Vilayat jane se admi kya kharab hua, kuchh nahin. Yeh sirf samaj ki bevaakofi hai.

So, Sir, I make an appeal to my orthodox Hindu friends not to throw obstacles in the way of reform of the society. I appeal to all my Hindu friends to pass this measure unanimously, without any opposition. I want you all to support not only this Bill but any other similar measure which may be brought forward at the next Session or at any future Sessions for the sake of reforming Hindu society. Unless there is legislation, the Hindu community will not be able to settle things among themselves.

In olden days, there was *rajasashana* for anything. When Indian Rajas ruled over our country, they used to issue *rajasashanas* or edicts bringing about reform in society. There was a *rajasashana* for everything. Now, we can have such *sashanas* only through the legislative enactments. I therefore appeal to all Honourable Members that for the sake of the advancement of the Hindu society, reforms measures should be brought and passed in this House.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh (Bombay City Non-Muhammadan Urban). Sir, I congratulate my Honourable friend Mr. Deshmukh on not withdrawing his Bill by yielding to the threats and cajoling of the Law Member. For, what was the meaning of this. The Law Member says the Honourable Member has not implemented something that passed between the two of them. What I want to know is this. When a thing concerns the welfare of society or the nation at large, is it a concern of two Members of this House and can there be any contract or agreement about it? And supposing a Member who represents the public refuses to yield to the threats and bullings and cajolings and the third degree of the Law Member, is it to be taken that there is a breach of contract? What was the idea of the Law Member in asking him to withdraw the Bill without the knowledge of the House? He knows very well that not only this House but the whole of Hindu society is interested not in this reform only but in all social reform. Sir, on the faces of my European friends here I see a smile. It may be a smile of satisfaction and in the case of better educated

and better cultured Englishman it may be a smile of sympathy. All I can say is that whenever the social laws of any nation are discussed we can take it for granted that we will find many ridiculous things which have been incorporated in the law or the religion by the legal system. I cannot forget how when I was a student in England and the Bill for marriage with the deceased wife's sister came up before the nation at that time, in the opinion of many of us it was a perfectly ridiculous measure. But all the same it touched the nation to the quick and they did not take it quite so lightly. Therefore my request to those friends who sympathise with us as well as to those who laugh at us is that they should have patience and sympathy when we of our own accord and by our own efforts try to improve our society.

Sir, why should not this be discussed by this House? Whenever these measures of social reform are brought up, we usually have one or two objections. One is that it is piecemeal legislation by which nothing can be achieved. I am sorry to say that the legal profession in general is a party to this kind of opinion. I have long come to the conclusion, having been interested in this social reform for a long time, that so far as the legal profession is concerned, however admirable it may be and however necessary it may be, for anything creative this profession is absolutely useless.

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed (Leader of the House) Certainly better than the medical profession!

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: I will come to that presently, there is no cause for repentment on the part of my legal friends at this remark, for the simple reason that I thought I was paying them a compliment. On account of their training they have to see whether a certain thing comes within the framework of the existing law, and as long as you want that and as long as you only see how the thing will be disposed of in the courts, I say anything creative is impossible for the legal profession. My Honourable friend the Leader of the House drew a comparison with the medical profession. Sir, I do not claim that the doctor's profession is a very creative profession, but I must say that his training is such and his environments are such from day to day and he has to work in such surroundings in society that he cannot help creating something which is not absolutely within some framework. Time was when I might have agreed with my Honourable friend the Leader of the House that the medical profession merely consisted in routine of purging and bleeding. But that time has long passed. I am sorry to say that the legal profession has not got over its old prejudices and old habits and going through one rut of law all the time.

Bardar Sant Singh (West Punjab Sikh) May I remind my Honourable friend that we have a better sense of values at the bar than in any other profession?

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: I agree, that is just the point that I am driving at. My Honourable friend talks of the sense of values. I know they have so much sense of values that they will not get out of the values we have. But we want to create values and these creative values it is not possible for them to understand. That being so I do not see why the discussion of this question should have been systematically and from session to session prevented in this House on the pretext that this is piecemeal legislation and we must do something wholesale. In connection with this I cannot also refrain from charging some of the leading women's associations in this country. Some of these leading women's associations in this country are so frightened of these legal men that as soon as anything is sent to them they will go to their respective lawyers in the different provinces,—very decent lawyers—because they want to know where they stand.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir (Bombay City Non-Muhammadan Urban) Very natural.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: Quite correct. I hope my Honourable friend will go on interrupting like this which will be of great help to me. It is of course natural. If there is a legal measure before the House I personally would not

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be ashamed to consult my lawyer friends,—including Sardar Sant Singh if he is available,—as to the implications of the measure. But what happens is really this. These lawyers, I regret to say, either on account of the wisdom that they really have or otherwise, put things in such a fashion that these lay women who after all are anxious to secure something for themselves are actually frightened out. I will give you an instance that happened in the Bombay Presidency which I hope my Honourable friends, Sir Cowasjee Jehangir and Sir Narayan Chandavarkar, are not ignorant of. When the question of adoption was on the anvil of the local Council, distinguished lawyers of that Presidency known for their social reform advised them not to accept that piecemeal legislation because that would prevent them from getting larger rights. I regret to say that the women folk of this country, particularly the educated ones, have fallen victims to this legal advice. I daresay the legal advice is quite honestly given but without taking into consideration the circumstances of the country and the environments in which they are. Therefore it is that you find opinions in this House given by women's associations saying that they do not want piecemeal legislation but want comprehensive legislation including marriage, divorce, intestate succession and a hundred and one things put together. I have had the honour of speaking individually to some of these women. When I pointed out that they should not go by what the law wants or what the legal luminaries tell them, but they should go by what they themselves want, nearly all of them admitted that they would be satisfied with whatever they could get and after they got it they would ask for something more. As in politics, so in the case of social reform, this is a thing which might be followed.

Mr. Lalchand Navarai (Sind Non-Muhammadan Rural) What about divorce?

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: Even divorce. I can tell you a lot more about divorce than you know, or hope to know.

Therefore, what I say is this. Don't say that such and such Women's Association have said that they will not have piecemeal reform because if we have piecemeal reform it will interfere with our having larger reforms. Then, Sir, if we suggest larger reforms, what happens. The position, as we have repeatedly seen in this House, is that you have only to suggest a radical reform and the whole house and country is in flame, including the Law Member. They say, if there is so much opposition to the Bill that is proposed, how can they go against the public opinion. I do not know whether I can bring this charge against the present Law Member because, so far as I can say, from the time he has come he has not put his foot into it. He has always preferred to avoid everything of the kind. He has not taken any active steps to introduce social reforms, but I admit that he has not opposed any social reform either.

The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy: I am waiting for you to do something.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: Quite right. I have come here to do that, and I have been here for a long time. I should have much preferred some of his predecessors who although they objected to some of the reforms, wholeheartedly supported some of the measures. I cannot forget Sir Nripendra Sircar. Although a good deal of credit has been given to different people—Chairman of the Rao Committee, and so on—I make bold to say but for the presence of Sir Nripendra Sircar on the Treasury Benches or in the position of Law Member, that Bill of social reform, which has been the source of all agitation—would never have seen the light of day. It was due to his concessions, due to his sympathy and active support that it went through. Although he did not agree with everything that was suggested, but all the same I do say that when he was convinced his was not the supine attitude of *laissez faire*; he did not let things pass, but as soon as he thought that the Bill was right he actively supported it and gave even official days to put it forward.

I cannot also forget one other predecessor of the Honourable the Law Member—Sir Muhammad Zafrulla Khan. When I put it to him about the divorce

reform, it was he who again supported by giving official days and by making every concession so far as the Divorce Bill was concerned. It does not mean that the Honourable the Law Member should necessarily agree but I do say that if he agrees he ought to give us his active support and should help us in this social reform, and if he disagrees he should frankly say, 'I will not support this, and I will have nothing to do with this'. Even his predecessor, Sir Nripendra Sircar, was not against divorce, but in those circumstances over which neither he nor we had any control he had to say no, although actually on the floor of this House he was good enough to say " although I agree with the principles of the Bill " We would like the Law Member to give us an active support and to take an active attitude towards the Bill instead of trying to squash discussion. Besides why should the discussion be squashed? After all, what has the Government done? They have turned round and round and so far as I can see, there is only one idea behind it, and that is that it will arouse public opinion. I give full credit to the Government for the position that they want to create—namely, public opinion with regard to this measure. Otherwise, I do not see why Select Committee's Report should be sent round to the public. Does this not create public opinion? Matters are discussed in this House and that creates public opinion, this is the only platform left to us now. My Honourable friend Sir Prakasha could not open his mouth to speak on any subject during the last four years. Today is the first day when he got the opportunity to speak, and I say that this is the privilege of this House—whether on politics, or on the social reform side or economic measures, whatever the subject may be we can have a full debate and discussion and that contributes to the creation of public opinion in this country. If not from that point of view, at least from the point of view of educating, the Honourable the Law Member should not have put forward the plea that he put forward, or the plea that he puts forward every time private Bills are moved. Allow me to tell him that but for the private Bills—and I am glad to say they were moved mainly by the Congress Party—the position of the Hindu Society would not have been what it is today. What happened in the case of reforms in respect of succession and property. At the time when we came to this House every widow was having a morsel of food in tans. Thanks to the women's rights under the Property Bill now every widow in every household is having her morsel of food not at the mercy of her relatives but as a matter of right. That is the result of piecemeal legislation. It was not the result of wholesale reform at that time. In a huge mass of Hindu Society as it is and with the prejudices and superstitions and the linking up of law, social customs and religions that has gone on in the society, it is necessary that we should proceed from one reform to the other. As soon as you have taken one step forward, you carry on to the next step. But I am perfectly willing to yield my ideas to any Government, to any authority who says 'I will not have piecemeal legislation. I want to have the whole thing radically changed'. I will support them in so far as it lies in my power, but don't let them make that as an excuse not to proceed with piecemeal legislation. But I cannot put up with the present attitude. If you suggest piecemeal legislation, they say it should be total reform and if you suggest total reform, they say they cannot proceed with it because public opinion is against it. I say these evasive ways will not do. Therefore, I am very glad that Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh did not vote to the third degree of treatment of the Law Member.

Sardar Sant Singh: May I tell my Honourable friend that 'third degree' is associated with the Police. It can be the Honourable the Home Member, not the Law Member.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: What I understand by 'third degree' is bullying and cajoling.

The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy: Cajoling is a very poor third degree.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: The Bill before the House is a very modest measure; it is such a measure that it really has nothing to do with the Codification Committee, although it has been included in codification. No less a person than

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Sir Reginald Maxwell was hesitating and was very doubtful whether this Bill should be sent to this Codification Committee. I see the Law Member shaking his head!

The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy: You can ignore me!

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: Thank you. But I cannot ignore you altogether because I will want your active support in the cause of the social reform now before us.

Suppose this Bill is taken. How does it interfere with the Codification Committee report? Let me tell you something about it as we Indians are a very grateful people. I might as well tell you exactly how this Committee came and how all the social Bills were transferred to this Committee.

After the Women's Right to Property Bill was passed in this House and we accepted many of the amendments that Government itself suggested many of the provisions in the Codification Committee originally existed in our Bills, viz., of giving the right of absolute property to women etc. The then Law Member, Sir Nripendra Nath Sircar, said that it would be impossible to push the whole of this measure, so please be satisfied with what we can do now. So all those things about giving the right to widows were accepted by us not as a full measure but as a compromise. When subsequently our Bills were before the House after the passage of this Act, different reports came from different High Courts to say that the different High Courts were interpreting the provisions of this Act in different ways and therefore to make it uniform this Codification Committee was instituted.

Since then, unfortunately we had taken a different attitude and we thought rightly for the then circumstances that no useful purpose would be served by our party coming to the House. You must remember that the primary object of our coming to this House was political. Since we thought no object would be served in the political field we ceased to attend. The result was that many of our social Bills were merely lying and there was never any chance of their being brought before the country.

Rao Bahadur N. Siva Raj (Nominated Non-Official) Awful blunder!

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: I will answer Mr Mortimer. What is the blunder in it? When our best leaders were in jail, did you expect us to come to this House? When our Jawahir Lal and Patels were in jail is it consistent with the dignity of even a second-rate leader to come to the Assembly? From our point of view we were correct. Your justice was meted out in a spirit of vengeance and not as justice, and yet will you please say that we were wrong? We were absolutely in the right. Mind you, Sir, if Mr Mortimer

Mr. T. Chapman-Mortimer (Bengal European) On a point of order, I did not say anything.

Mr. Chairman (Mr Abdul Quayum) You are getting away from the subject of the Bill.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: I do not care whether it is Mr Mortimer or his neighbour. In the then circumstances we did not think it advisable to come here. When we did happen to come in the medical, I mean political field (Sir Cowasjee Jehangir can afford to laugh. It is neither in the medical nor economical field!). I suggested to Mr Maxwell that now that you are appointing this Committee why not send these Bills to the Social Reform Committee. Let it be said to his credit that he did send them. It is not my habit to disown anything that might be done for the welfare of the country. It was the then Home Member, Mr Maxwell, who sent this Bill to the Committee for consideration. Although he sent the other Bills, he himself expressed the view that so far as this Bill was concerned, he was very doubtful whether it could be sent to that Committee.

The whole argument is that our Codification Committee's report is coming when we will be able to deal with the whole question and not piece-meal and therefore all these questions must not be taken before the House. These arguments cannot be substantiated by the Law Member. They do not come in the

way of your Codification Committee. In that Committee, what are the objections? If you change one part of the Hindu Law it has repercussions on the other parts of the Hindu Law and therefore you cannot change one part of the law and not the other. That is the argument put forward by my legal friend. In this particular Bill there are no such repercussions. After all those who are married and those who are going to marry, whether they belong to the same *Gotras*, *Pravaras* and *Sagotras*, the object is to make their children legitimate and to make their succession valid. All that it wants is that those who belong to the same *Sagotras* and *Pravaras* should be allowed to marry.

Let me here request the Law Member to do something which the Congress Party has done and let him take a leaf out of our book. In a question like this we have allowed a free vote and free discussion to all members of our Party. Is Government prepared to do that? I speak in respect of their Nominated Members.

Mr. Manu Subedar (Indian Merchants' Chamber and Bureau, Indian Commerce). He may like to vote with us.

The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy: I could not understand what I am expected to do.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: The consequence of marriage is carrying!

The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy: You do not expect me to do that!

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: In a matter of non-political subject like this we have allowed free opinion to our members. I for one will not be for curtailing any particular opinion whether on the religious side, or the political or economic side.

With this introduction to it, let me come down to the Bill.

I say the Law Member should never have prevented the discussion of the Bill and I hope that in future when some other such Bills are being reviewed he will not come in the way of free discussion in the House, for the simple reason that if it serves nothing else it serves the purpose of educating the country, an object which is as much to the heart of the Government as it is to the heart of we people who are their elected representatives.

I say from the legal point of view this Bill does not interfere with the codification of your other Bills. It can have no repercussions on the other side of the Hindu Law. If two people in different parts of the country happen to marry and by ignorance they happen to belong to the same *Gotras*, why should their marriage not be valid? After all, whoever knows what *Gotra* means in these days! We are bringing in all kinds of religious texts from various authorities and saving these are our Shastras. Even in Mahabharata the great Hindu King, Dharma Raj said "*Smriti Vibhanna na eko Rishirasya Vaacha Pramanam*", which translated is "There is not one *smriti* which is like another. There is not a single *rishi* whose authority or sayings can be taken as authoritative." Therefore we are not going to have less number of opinions and thought in these days than what was expressed by the great Dharmaraja, the founder Hindu King, one of the greatest kings, who was nicknamed the King of Religion. If that was the view expressed what is the good of my friends here who are talking about Sanatanists and orthodox people who are making *yagnas* at Benares with 35,000 offerings, saying that this is all against religion and therefore there must be a religious movement against this social reform. I say that this question can be discussed from two points of view. There is the religious point of view and there is another point of view, which I would like to discuss if the House would allow me, *viz.*, the scientific point of view or the eugenic point of view. Sir, from the religious point of view, as I said whenever the scriptures are quoted as authority for the present system we cannot rely on any one author, because as soon as one author is quoted you have half a dozen other authors who are quoted against him. When there are so many opinions quoted against one another how can you rely on any one of them? This has been the experience in this country about religious opinions for a very long time. At the time of the *Sati* opinions were quoted in favour and against. At

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the time of the Child Marriage Restraint Act, religious opinions were quoted both in favour and against. At the time of the Women's Right to Property Act the *smritis* were quoted in favour and against. On those occasions the opinion was expressed that these legal measures would uproot Hindu society. Hinduism would topple down and that the legislative measures would mean the destruction of Hindu society. But what has happened? Has the abolition of *Sati* led to the destruction of the Hindu society? Has the Child Marriage Restraint Act led to the destruction of Hindu society? Or, even in my own sphere of legislative endeavour, has the Women's Right to Property Act led to the destruction of Hindu society? I say that Hindu society has become stronger and more vigorous on account of these measures than it would have been otherwise.

Therefore, Sir, you cannot rely on any of the older opinions or *Smritis* as authoritative opinions on *Sagotra* and *Sapinda*. What does *Sagotra* mean? Even on a more intimate word than *Sagotra*, I mean *Sapinda*, we have differences of opinion. Some religious commentators say that it means belonging to the same flesh and blood. It might have been thought that so far as a word like *Sapinda* is concerned there could not be any differences of opinion but it is not so in fact. There is also another opinion, which is quite different and which says that *Sapinda* means not blood relations but those who offer rice balls to the ancestors in Heaven and those who have that right. You have only to look through the discussions and comments with regard to the giving of right to property to women to see how this controversy has waged and how different commentators and different texts have been brought in. I say that if that is the position with regard to a word called "*Sapinda*", which means of your own flesh, blood and bone, can you expect any unanimity on a word like *Sagotra*? One of the modern commentators goes to the extent of saying that *Sagotra* means those who had the same pasturage or common drinking ground, because in the olden days all these communities had a common pasturage and a common drinking ground. Now you can understand that at that time, when there were small-nomadic communities they were feeding their cattle on the same common ground and having the same water supply. It is just possible that a religious injunction might have been issued that the same community should not marry within themselves. Those of you who have read the book by Dr Freund "*Totem and Taboo*", wherein he deals with the question of exogamous marriages will easily see that it is not impossible that that might be the origin of *Sagotra*, that one community did not like to marry within the same community and therefore they wanted to have marriages outside their own community. Therefore I myself think that *Sagotra* has very little or nothing to do with religion or religious practices. To my Hindu friends, who say that *Sagotra* means some kind of blood relationship and that prohibition has been instituted to prevent Endogamous marriages or marriages within blood relationship. I say that when you talk about *rishis* being our ancestors you are doing nothing but defaming them. So far as I know many of the *rishis*, whose names have been handed down to us were bachelors and ascetics. What do you mean by saying that this means blood relationship? I am not prepared to defame our *rishis*. After all like every society my society also has produced ascetics and venerable men to whom I do bow my head and whom I look upon with reverence. There is only one other explanation, if you do not accept the explanation of *Sagotra* on the basis of a communal grazing ground and that is this. These *rishis* being the teachers and givers of instruction his pupils coming to him from all parts of the country and these pupils or disciples belonged to the same *gotra*, that is to say the same common school. Here again, where does the claim of blood relationship come in? Therefore I say that whether you look at it from the religious point of view or any other, the crux that is raised that *Sagotra* is meant to prevent Endogamy and preserve the purity of blood (I have my own views on this which I will presently offer to the House), *Sagotra* has nothing to do with religion nor with blood relations. It only means that people belong to

particular school. Otherwise, how can you explain the same *gotra* amongst the Brahmins, how can you have the same *gotra* among the Kshatriyas and Vaisyas? Those who are learned in the Shastras and scriptures will tell you that it was usual for the Kshatriya clans to accept the *gotra* of the priest or the Brahmin who was at their courts. Even then I say that blood relationship cannot come in. Therefore let us forget in deciding a matter like this that we are dealing with religion or blood relation. Like all ancient things superstition and religion have gathered round *Sagotra* to make things look in the dark darker, and I am surprised that even this Hindu Code Committee, where I

expected that modern thought would prevail, seem to have gone down before these gods of clay with reverence bowed their knees and brought their hands down in these days. I have not seen the Committee's report—my complaint like my friend Mr. Sri Prakasa's is that everybody else seems to have got it but I have not got it yet, but I read something from the newspapers and I am giving notice that if I am not correct, the Honourable Member will correct me. I say that with regard not only to this *sagotra* and *sapinda* relationship—that they cannot marry for five degrees or seven degrees—let some thinking prevail, let us have some thinking on this subject, let us dissect and analyse and bring to bear whatever knowledge we can on this subject, so that we shall not perpetuate the same blunders which have been perpetrated for an untold number of years. From the religious point of view there is absolutely nothing in this *sagotra* business, there is absolutely no objection why *sagotra* marriages should not be allowed.

Sagotra at least you can understand, but when you come to *sapraravas* I defy anyone to say—and I may say my Honourable friend Mr. Anev who is no more in the House also said that there are many Brahmins who will not be able to explain to you what really *saprarava* means. In one place you will find that the *sapraravas* are less in number than the *gotras*, in the other case you will find that *gotras* are less in number than the *sapraravas*. When there is a jumble like this, what is correct and what is not correct? My Honourable friend's explanation seemed to say that if the two members are of the same *gotra* then, although they belonged to the same *gotra*, they could marry because their *pravaras* may be different, and he puts down as *pravaras* to distinguish and discriminate between two children, boy and girl, of the same *gotra*. Mr. Deshmukh in his discussion before the Assembly says that there are four *gotras* and 49 *pravaras*, and so far as I can see—and I have had a talk, when I was an active participant in these measures in the House I took the trouble of inviting a few *Sastra* to learn from them what actually this *pravara* and this *gotra* mean, and I very much regret to say that the explanations were just as confusing as they have been on the floor of the House. Nobody seems to know what *pravara* is, and nobody seems to know quite definitely what the *gotra* is.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: How are we to legislate then?

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: I know that the only qualification for legislating is not to know anything. I say I was no wiser after consulting these learned people as to what the *pravaras* are and what the *gotras* are. If *sagotra* marriages cannot be supported, then *pravaras* can be still less supported or still less prohibited because *pravaras* according to this it means—at least this is what I am inclined to believe—that these *gotras* come first, and the *pravaras* come afterwards. I believe that the *pravaras* are a higher classification, not a lower classification than the *gotras*, and I think I am entitled to give my own explanation on the subject to this House.

I say that this *sagotra* business had come to be a difficulty with our older thinkers; not having any legislative assemblies then, they tried to solve it in their own way. If a boy and girl of the same community had to come together and there was difficulty about the marriage—that their children would be legitimate, they solved it in their own way, and to my mind it was a very beautiful way. To get over the difficulty of the boy and girl being of the same *gotra*,

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they brought in these *pravaras*, to say, that although they may belong to the same *gotra*, if they belong to different *pravaras* then they could marry. That was a very clever way of getting over the difficulty, so far as *sagotra* marriage was concerned. You can understand that in those days the interpretation of the law was not as rigid—it might have been good, bad or indifferent—but it was suited to the circumstances. Learned people of the community came together, interpreted the laws and they made it in conformity with the conditions of the society and the circumstances of the time. With the institution of rigid courts, the law has been crystallised and you do not have the same liberty of interpretation as we used to have in the olden days. Even more so now I really pity those Sanatanists and orthodox gentlemen who say that they are following the Hindu law. What is the Hindu law today? Is it the Hindu law as interpreted by Hindus only? No. It is Hindu law as interpreted and on which the final seal has been put by Englishmen—foreigners who are not born to the law—and although they have tried their best to understand the law, they cannot understand the implications of it and they follow the legal methods which are in conformity with the legal traditions of their own country. Necessarily therefore we suffer from the advantages of the method as well as the disadvantages of this method. If Hindu society had advanced and did not need any progress, I can understand the advantages of a method like this. But with a society like this and a government when it was not popular having taken up the attitude that they do not want to interfere with the laws of the people, social progress of the people became absolutely impossible. What I say is this. The Government now must take courage in both hands. It cannot be contradicted that this is foreign Government but now it can change the laws of the country. If it is a change, they are only assisting, they are only helping and the main brunt, the main responsibility of changing the laws of the country is on the heads of the representatives of the people. Therefore there is no justification for the same attitude on the part of the Government as it was before. From the religious point of view this *pravara* business has no standing, and I do not see how it can be allowed to weigh with us. As I have said, these *sagotras* also, if not as unimportant, cannot be considered to be of paramount importance.

This Bill does not have any repercussions on other parts of Hindu law. Why should there be any difficulty, then, about accepting this Bill by this House and the Law Member supporting it. I do not really understand. Supposing I grant to the Sanatanists that this Bill interferes with the blood relations. From the eugenics point of view, I say, who has made the experiments with regard to eugenics? After all the exogamy or marriages out of the same circle—has it been always as advantageous and is marrying within the blood been so harmful? Let me give you the instance of Darwin. If marrying within the blood can produce Darwins, it can be good enough for any community in the world. Darwin came of father and mother who were intimately related to each other both from the father's side and from the mother's side, and this in-marrying of blood did not lead to any degeneration on the part of the product. On the other hand, Darwin has been one of the world's greatest thinkers. If you do not want to go to Europe, I will give you another instance. Before I come to a modern instance, of this marrying within the blood, I will cite the case of the royal dynasties of Egypt in the olden days. They went even to the extent of brother marrying sister. And if we are not concerned with kings, let us come down to the in-breeding of the Bedouin Arabs. Well, can you get a race which is more brave, more honest and better in every way than the Bedouin Arabs whose qualities of head and heart have been praised all over the world?

Therefore, my point is—don't go straight in for this marrying-in of the blood. I do not recommend that but I say—don't all at once be so superstitious as to think that this in-breeding is something atrocious, something horrible and something not good for the race of Hindus. This is the scientific view and I know that there will be lot of opposition to these views but I cannot think in any

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other way but the scientific way so far as my training is concerned and thinking in a religious way so far as my upbringing as a Hindu is concerned. I want to combine both, if both can be combined. That will explain my alluding to the science of eugenics to a certain extent. I say—why should we think that inbreeding in the same *gotra* will lead to degeneration of the race. It is quite likely that it might even lead to an improvement of the race. After all, what have the experiments shown? It has not been proved that inbreeding leads to degeneration. There is no Mendel's law about it. Nobody has tried to experiment Mendel's law with regard to inbreeding experiments so far as human beings are concerned. On the other hand, so far as proof is concerned, it is the other way round. Take the instance of Darwin and the 'Bedouin Arabs, from the eugenic point of view we do not and we cannot support any resistance to the passing of this Bill.

Coming down to the sub-castes. One of the provisions of the Bill is that you can allow sub-castes to intermarry. My Honourable friend Mr. Sri Prakasa told you that originally—and there cannot be any doubt about it—so far as the religious books are concerned, there were only four castes in India—the Brahmin, the Kshatriya, the Vaishya and the Sudra. Quite apart from the region of the body where they sprang from what do we find? The four castes have been multiplied by geometrical progression. There are today four thousand castes in India. Is this religion or is this society? Is the Hindu society going to keep up its position in the future struggle in this world? Even so far as the old religious scriptures are concerned, what is the justification for *pratiloma* and *anuloma vivahass*. Even the great God Creator himself in my religion says that the 'Brahmins came from the mouth'. True! It was then their business to attend only to learning. I am not ashamed of it. It was like the Professor class in every modern State. Since it was their duty, always to teach and receive instruction, naturally, metaphorically their status was put in the mouth of God, the Creator. So far as the warrior class is concerned, they seem to have come from the arm. If he is a warrior, he always fights with the arm. I say there is a metaphorical basis for the origin of the four different castes in my society. So far as the Vaishyas are concerned, my strength has come to me from my thighs and so far as my foundation on Mother Earth is concerned, well, I have got to use my feet. Otherwise I will be a lame creature. It is true that this was twisted and was made to suit their own purpose by the priestly class but I am not dealing here with the priest class. I am concerned with my religion and I say there is nothing laughable or nothing degrading in this idea of the creation of the four castes. After all, if you read the modern psychologists, men like Jung and Froude and many of the mental psychologists say that after all so far as the division of labour is concerned, you can only divide the communities into four classes—the learned class, the fighting class, the trading class and the serving class and we have what another psychologist Jung—I forget his name—calls the "personas", if I remember rightly. So, what I say is that instead of anything being there to laugh at in this classification of society, there is something in it which every Hindu might be proud of. At the same time he has every need to be ashamed of the twisting and the degeneration that was brought in by the priest class. What religion is there which has not been degenerated and degraded by the priest class and made it to suit its own advantage. Take the case of Christianity and the case of Islam. I say that there is no religion which has not been degenerated and degraded by the priest class belonging to that religion. Therefore my request to my Hindu religion and religious scriptures by the priest class. So far as I am concerned, I do not yield my powers of thinking to anybody. I may be wrong but I do not yield, whether it is in the political field or the economic field or in the religious field.

Mr. Lalchand Navabhai: In the medical field also?

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: I should have thought that you took that for granted. That being the case, my request to my Hindu friends is—why go by the interpretations of your priests which have been put on the scriptures for thousands of years. Now, you have had the benefit of education. You have the interpretation of the thinking men of both the East and also what is more important—and I say this advisedly—and of the scholars of the West. If you are in doubt about any point, they have interpreted many of the scriptures impartially, not being interested in any particular interpretation. Under these favourable circumstances, it is the duty of everybody concerned to interpret in his own light. He should not stop at that. It is his duty to instruct his countrymen at the same time.

Now, take the interpretation about the origin of the four castes. I do not call the feet untouchable, because they happen to be my feet. Nor do I consider my hands to be of less importance or my thighs to be of lesser importance than my tongue and mouth, because I can speak for a little while in the Assembly.

I am very glad to see my friend Mr. Bajoria just coming into the Assembly. I have never found anybody more reasonable than Mr. Bajoria and what is more, if things had been left to ourselves, to Mr. Bajoria and myself, and if the Law Member had not butted in with his Codification Committee—I am not speaking of the present Law Member—I can assure you that by this time the condition of Hindu society and of women in particular would have very much improved.

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar (Supply Member). You are applying third degree to Mr. Bajoria.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: He is so very reasonable.

[At this stage, Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdul Rahim) resumed the Chair.]

I am sure when he gets the opportunity to speak, he himself will say the same thing about me. (An Honourable Member "Wait and see.") What I say is this, that since the head, the hands, the thighs and the feet belong to the same organism and are of equal importance so far as the vitality of the society is concerned, where does the question of caste and sub-caste and much less the question of touchability and untouchability come in? I say it is absolutely a wrong interpretation which has been put. I am very sorry I have got to repeat the same thing, but I cannot help it because I feel so badly about it. It is very unfortunate that the members of my society should go on with these interpretations and leave the wheat behind and be satisfied with this wretched husk. I can explain the historical reason for all this hair-splitting and for the multiplication of castes and sub-castes. We did not have anything better to do than to sit down and spin threads. Not having much of an ambitious programme so far as this country is concerned and not being able to involve ourselves into adventures of a magnificent kind, all our energies were wasted in producing castes and sub-castes and whether I should dine with you or marry with you. After all, nourishment and reproduction are the necessities of life and it is no wonder that the energies of the human race should be incessantly and perennially engaged in considering these two questions. I do not blame my ancestors for all the things which have been created, but I do blame the present generation for not taking the right view of things with all the favourable circumstances of research and education at their disposal. That is where my heart bleeds and I am surprised that even at this time we should have these distinctions of *pratiloma* and *anuloma* marriages. Will my brother Mr. Govind Deshmukh tell me whether in the marriage laws the same has not been given effect to with regard to these marriage laws of the Hindus? If it has been done away with, all glory to them. The upper class man can marry the lower class woman. That is the *anuloma* marriage. I do not know whether there were profiteers in

those days even in the matter of marriage. A Brahmin could have four legitimate wives. He could have a Brahmin wife to whom the position of importance was given. Secondly, he could have a Kshatriya wife, who was second in importance. Thirdly, he could have a Varshya wife and fourthly a Shudra wife. All the four wives were legitimate because they were *anuloma* marriages. Similarly, a Kshatriya could have three wives and a Varshya could have two wives and a Shudra could have only one wife. Do not forget there were capitalists and profiteers even in those days with regard to the marriage. If that order was followed, then they were valid, but if the reverse order was followed, then the fat was in the fire. Then, they were invalid. And so far as the marriage from a low class man to the upper class woman was concerned, the issue of that marriage was considered illegitimate and branded with all kinds of disqualifications.

Only the other day while reading the debate on South Africa I was reminded of the South African situation today. I do not want to import politics in the social question.

Sir Syed Raza Ali (Cities of the United Provinces, Muhammadan Urban). This is an anecdote.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: I think Sir Syed Raza Ali will tell us if it is a fact that the South Africans do not like the native population to marry the European girls.

Sir Syed Raza Ali: They are bitterly opposed to it.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: The only point why I wanted to say that was that almost every community does that. But, then, now we have been here for thousands of years irrespective of the fact where we came from. It matters not whether we came from Palmyra or we came through Afghanistan or we sprang in the soil here. Whether we are Aryans or Dravidians, we have all been so long on this soil and this soil has given us nourishment and food and has formed our blood and our brains and bones. Is it worth while, therefore, to keep all these differences? Have we not been merged into one nation? Have we not been merged into one type of individuality? Any Indian—I do not care who he is—who goes over to the foreign countries can immediately be found out across the crowd on the opposite side of the road even in London and in Paris. You can say: Here is my countryman who is going across the road. I do not care whether he is a Parsi or a Muslim or a Christian or a Hindu of a depressed class or a high class Brahmin. I can always spot an Indian because there is something very distinctive about him. That means that nature has not failed in its attempt to hammer us into a type of nationality however much to our conceit we may say that we belong to this blood or that blood. After all, we have become Indians now. That is so far as all the Indians are concerned. So far as the Hindu society is concerned, is it necessary that we should observe these castes and subcastes? From four castes you have come to 4,000 castes with regard to dining and marriages. Now, dining is a social side and I do not deny that marriage is also a social side. But what does the Bill do? Does the Bill say that you shall marry? No, as has been repeatedly pointed out, it is permissive. You need not marry, but if you do marry, no law should come in and say that the children of this marriage shall be illegitimate. Look at Russia. Because of the ignorance of the parents, the children shall not be branded. Therefore, I say that where marriages do take place, there should be a permissive law. Not to accept the child as a legitimate child of the marriage is a moral wrong and it should not be a legal wrong so far as we can help it. Therefore, I say that the provision that has been put forward with regard to the subcastes is very wise. I do not think it goes as far. My complaint against my own brother's Bill is that it does not go as far as I would have liked it to. The way he has curtailed it that only *sagotras* should be covered by it does not satisfy me. It cannot satisfy any intellectual person. Why not have *sapindas* as well. After all, as some of my friends themselves have suggested, a maternal cousin can be a legitimate bride and I suppose it must be admitted by a Hindu,

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at any rate, that if a *sapinda* marriage in certain sections of the Hindus cannot be looked upon as illegitimate, how can you say that a *sagotra* marriage can be illegitimate? Therefore, in my opinion he has gone along the path of least resistance.

One thing I have learnt from my experience in this House. It is useless and hopeless to convince my Hindu brothers by proving to them that any measure is according to religion and that whatever you are suggesting in this House is according to the tenets of the Hindu religion. It is a hopeless task and I hope no future reformer will waste his time on it. When you were in the Chair, Sir, and when many of the social reform measures were propounded in this House, I then, being a tyro in social reform, had the idea that all that I had to do was to convince my Hindu brethren that a thing was in the Hindu scriptures and it will be followed. Then all that I had to do was, at great personal inconvenience, I do not say expense, to get hold of the Shastris and Pandits. I wanted them to explain things to me as to what the real position in the Shastras was. I must admit that even among orthodox classes at the present day there are many people who hold advanced views, and in my opinion right views. I was fortunate enough to come across them and they explained to me that this was the right explanation. With a childish faith, I came to this House thinking that all that I had to do was to show these things in our scriptures and tell them that these are the authorities and they should abide by them. Imagine, Sir, my disappointment when I saw Honourable Members of the House, educated, learned, representing intelligent section of my community coming forward and saying that the scriptures were unsupplied. They did not dare to say that the scriptures were wrong. When that would not stand the ground, then they said it did not apply to present day circumstances. If it does not apply to present day circumstances, well then, suggest something which will be applicable to present day circumstances. No, Sir, that was not done. Even an intelligent person like Mr Anev gave some explanation in this House which was heart-breaking. When the Bill for women's right to property and divorce, residence and maintenance Bills came before the House here, my friend Mr Anev adopted the usual policy which the Government of India follows. When I brought the residence and maintenance Bill for women, Mr Anev said, why bring in such a piecemeal legislation, we must have wholesale legislation. I remember very well in this House when I said, very well bring wholesale legislation, he said what are you doing? Are you thinking of uprooting the whole Hindu society? How can the Hindu society continue? This was the case of an intelligent person like Mr Anev. I am not making any charges against him, because he is not here to answer them. It is in the Legislative Assembly Debates and any one can refer to it. I can understand my Honourable friend Mr Bajoria. So far as he is concerned, I was amazed at the progressive opinion held by him considering the number of Sanatnists who were egging him on to put forward their views on the subject. He did not however allow himself to be their mouthpiece. Indeed if I remember rightly, it was Mr Bajoria who agreed to my residence and maintenance Bill for Hindu women. Mr Bajoria agreed when so many Sanatnists and orthodox Pandits did not agree.

Babu Baijnath Bajoria (Marwari Association Indian Commerce) No, I did not agree with your Bill.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: You agreed to the idea underlying the Bill which comes to the same thing.

Babu Baijnath Bajoria: The Honourable Member is misrepresenting me.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: I will ask my Honourable friend to point out in the Assembly Debates themselves whether he agreed to or opposed the measure. When Sir N. N. Sircar could not go to the length of accepting my Divorce Bill, and when he was good enough to appoint a Committee at my suggestion for

residence and maintenance Bill, my friend Mr Bajoria unanimously agreed to it. Is that correct or not?

Babu Baijnath Bajoria: Not to the Bill, but to the motion that there should be residence and maintenance for women.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: I honour men like Mr Bajoria for their honest and robust opinion. I can understand it is merely a matter of convincing them. I promise the Honourable the Law Member that if he finds that the whole codification of Hindu law will not go through on account of opposition from the Hindu community, all that he has got to do is to come forward with me and Mr Bajoria and we will see that some of the measures go through. I feel confident about Mr Bajoria. I will give you another instance. Just now as regards this Intestate Succession Bill, I can tell you that there is a lot of discussion going on in some of the vernacular papers. I read in one of the Marathi papers and naturally in some of the English papers also,—I do not know what is happening in other parts of the country, there is a lot of discussion going on about this Bill. I find the Sanatanists are opposing this measure saying that it would lead to breakage of property, as if human beings are meant for property, and property is not meant for human beings. But that is beside the point. I submit that these orthodox men are now writing that so far as women are concerned, the Property Bill of 1937 has been very good, very just and it gives women substantial rights. What was then condemned by them is now praised.

Babu Baijnath Bajoria: Question.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: I do not know what is taking place in that part of the country from which Mr Bajoria comes. Mr Bajoria may question as he likes, but in my part of the country, this is what is going on. I do not know about Marwari community. Whatever Mr Bajoria may say, I still maintain that the orthodox men approve the 1937 Bill. They actually praise the Bill. I say to the Honourable the Law Member, take courage in your hands, proceed with the social reform legislation. You have all the intelligent opinion behind you in this country and the very persons who will be condemning you today for some of this piecemeal legislation, if you cannot make wholesale reform, will be the very persons who will praise it at a later date.

With regard to the provisions of the Bill so far as marriage between sub-castes are concerned, why should objection be taken for it? After all is said and done, everybody would like to be classified under the four castes. Should you really not help in the merging of all sub-castes into each other and reduce it to its pristine purity of four castes. I want to put it to the Sanatanists: do you not want the Hindu society to go back to its original pure form? If the sub-castes marry among themselves what is going to be the effect of it? All will be merged and there will be only four main castes. Can there be a more desirable piece of reform from a religious point of view to take back the religion to its pristine pure form? Is that not an object for which my Honourable friend Mr Bajoria and others should contend for, including the Law Member, which is to produce pure Hindu society? It is the duty of every Hindu to go back to pure form. I always said in this House that I am very proud to have been born a Hindu. That is not a blind statement based on superstition. I find in my study of Hindunism that it contains every provision that will satisfy my conscience, and that no Hindu need look to any other religion either for the satisfaction of his heart or the satisfaction of his head or even for the law. What is it that it does not contain? Even as regards the daughter's inheritance she will get one-fourth of the brother's share. I admit that my Muslim friends also have been very advanced in that respect.

Babu Baijnath Bajoria: You are misleading the House.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: My Honourable friend says I am misleading the House. I defy him to prove that I am wrong. And what is more I will tell him how that share of the daughter was converted into dowry by a low kind of trick. And it is not we only who are condemning this transformation of the legitimate share of the daughter. Manu himself says that the share of the

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daughter should be one-fourth of the brother's share. And even so early a commentator as Medhatithi who lived about the year 760 condemned this changing of the daughter's share into dowry. It was a hearse, cheating the poor daughters who were then ignorant and uneducated. And they were kept pleased by saying that they were being given dowry, by the pomp and show of marriage. What does that mean if it is not cheating?

Babu Baijnath Bajoria: Sir, on a point of order how do these point arise on the Bill now under discussion?

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: I think the point does arise. I say it is the priest-craft that has done this. And if you allow marriage among sub-castes, I say you are not going beyond Hindu religion, you are only restoring Hindu religion to its old form. Therefore the comments you had in the papers in regard to clause 2 of the Bill are useless. I have heard comments even in this House that this is an attempt to get a social measure passed which is not before the country. Nothing of the kind, all these provisions are in the Hindu law and the Hindu scriptures. Only one commentator after another in trying to show off his own knowledge put on different glosses on the text. And that is how my friends like Mr. Bajoria and their followers put forward all kinds of excuses to interrupt the progress of social reform. But it is not against Hinduism at all. One argument is advanced that the public have not demanded it. But can there be better proofs than facts, so far as the public is concerned. I suppose in law they say that one fact is worth more a hundred rules or laws; and I say that one fact in public life is better than any amount of so-called public opinion expressed in the papers. What is happening among better class Hindus? If a girl wants to marry a boy or the parents of a girl want to marry her to some boy and they belong to the same *gotra*, they try to circumvent that by giving that girl in adoption to some other parents, a thing illegal in itself, because no girl can be taken in adoption under Hindu law. And those who are proud of Hindu law and accept Hindu law at the hands of European judges of the Privy Council keep quiet over it and do not say one word. But when taking all these facts into consideration some poor legislator comes to the House and wants to change or modify the law so that individuals may be fitted to the circumstances or the circumstances may be fitted to the individuals, there is a howl and uproar from one end of the country to the other that religion is being uprooted and society is being destroyed. But one fact is enough, and this kind of thing is happening not among ignorant people or people who only want to make money. It comes out of better human sentiments, sentiments of devotion and love and regard, and when two youthful hearts want to fulfil their destiny by marrying, here are these rigid artificial impediments and you force them to circumvent them by all kinds of devious methods. Is it not right that this legislator should notice these facts even if they happen rarely and among educated people? When the question of separate residence and maintenance was put forward I pointed out that the circumstances are changing. You find many of these so-called educated men possibly after their return from Europe at the expense of their fathers-in-law marrying other girls. It is for you to say whether this should be made legal or otherwise, but why should you force his first wife to live under the same roof with the second wife? Does it not hurt her? But there again opposition came in and unfortunately we could not succeed due to many circumstances. Does the Law Department of the Government of India want that there should be applications from hundreds of thousands of people that they want to marry outside their caste and therefore the law should be changed? Soon after we came here there was an instance which occurred.

Babu Baijnath Bajoria: Why not marry under the Civil Marriage Act?

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: I will come to that; I will tell you why.

Sir, an instance happened of a marriage in Bangalore between a European gentleman and a lady, and there was some question as to its validity whether

it was in the cantonment or outside it. And the then Home Member,—I think it was Sir Henry Craik,—brought forward a Bill to rectify that. That is how societies are kept together and built up. You cannot say that because members of my society have not put forward petitions for enacting this law therefore you will not do it. It is for the legislators and the Government Department to see what things are necessary and suitable to the environments and changing circumstances in the country. They say there is no demand. I say there is a better demand than sending petitions. There have been scores of instances in my own part of the country where daughters have been given in adoption so that these marriages may be performed. That is a fact which ought to strike the legislators and the Law Department and the representatives of the people. Instances like that are daily multiplying, all that is wanted is that you should have some measure for the relief of these people. By education, by culture and by instruction they have come to a stage when although belonging to the same *gotra* they should marry. There should be permissive legislation for it. A point has been made, "why do you not marry under the Civil Marriage Act?" Who are you to tell me that? Why should I marry under the Civil Marriage Act? I am as much a Hindu as you are.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: Whom are you addressing?

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: I have heard this cry all over the country. They put it forward as an argument, and I think it is something like an argument which an Honourable Member from the European Group put forward the argument of the war effort when we were discussing the South African situation.

An Honourable Member: No politics.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: All right. They say those who are willing to marry, they should marry under the Civil Marriage Act. I am as much a Hindu as you are, perhaps I am a better Hindu than you are.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: Who is you?

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: I may have made better attempts to keep the Hindu society solid, than merely spouting *mantras* and *stokas*. What right has anybody to say that I should marry under an Act which does not belong to me. It is my duty as a member of the Hindu society.

Mr. Hooseimbhoy A. Lalljee (Bombay Central Division, Muhammadan Rural). And a Brahmin as well.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: Yes. I am proud to own that for the time being. In the olden days, it was Brahmins—my ancestors—who used to make the law, and it could not be Mr. Bajoria's, they would not have any say in that.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: Are you a Brahmin?

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: Yes, blue-blooded Brahmin and my *gotra* is *kashyap*. What right have they to tell me that I should desert the Hindu fold. I am born a Hindu, and will be a Hindu and nobody has as a right to take away my hereditary heritage of being born a Hindu. You may tell that to somebody who is ashamed of his religion. I am proud of it. It is not for you to tell me that I should give up my own fold and marry under the Civil Marriage Act.

An Honourable Member: Not under the Civil Marriage Act.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: Whether it is Civil Marriage Act or Civil Marriage Act, it is my duty as a Hindu to see that Hindu law is improved.

Babu Baijnath Bajoria: Then you admit that a marriage under the Civil Marriage Act is not a Hindu marriage?

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: I have very little time and if I can, I would like to finish it today, but if my Honourable friend, Mr. Baijnath Bajoria, keeps on interrupting me I will have to carry on.

Sir, this point has been raised by certain non-Hindus and those sections of Hindus who have given up the Hindu fold—I am talking about Arya Samajists and Brahmo Samajists, I have nothing but respect for them; I am all for liberty of opinion. You must have seen that I voted for the motion with regard to the Satyarth Prakasha. After you declared from the Chair that it was a question of the application of the Defence of India Act. I thought here was an opportunity that I should give my opinion that we shall not go back to the dark middle

[Dr. G. V. Deshmukh]

ages, that we must have liberty of opinion, liberty of press and liberty of printing our opinions in whatever way we like. Otherwise progress is impossible.

If I detach myself from the Hindu community and make things easier for myself it will not be creditable to me. Why? Any third-rate man can do that, you need not tell him that I want to dig my toes in the Hindu Society and I want to see that Hindu Society is improved. And what is of still greater advantage to me is this that in trying to improve the Hindu society I need not have any innovations. Those who know the Hindu law only by proceedings in the courts may perhaps be amazed at my assertion, but I do say that if you want to renovate and purify the Hindu law you need not go to any modern legislature for that, you need not go to any other society for bringing the Hindu law in conformity with the circumstances of the society today, or the society in conformity with individual progress.

Mr. M. Ghiasuddin (Punjab Landholders) What are the practical disabilities of a person who marries under the Civil Marriage Act? I want to be educated on that point.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: My Honourable Friend, Mr. Sri Prakasha, I think, told you that to a certain extent. When he gave his individual instance he said 'I do not want to break myself away from the Hindu joint family, I don't want the Hindu joint family to be broken up, I want to have my daughter-in-laws according to my choice. The greatest disadvantage is that you are supposed to have ceased to be a member of the joint Hindu family.'

Mr. Hoosebhoy A. Laljee: It is very very bad.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: I do not say that the joint Hindu family is a live thing today, it exists on paper,—it exists for evading income-tax!

The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy: Are you 'joint' with your brother?

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: We are both joint and otherwise. We have arranged in such a way that we conform to the modern society.

An Honourable Member: What about income-tax?

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: I am not backward in that respect. We have modified the Hindu Law without going to any other law.

Sir, when they say 'why don't you marry under the Civil Marriage Act', I say I refuse to do so. Personally I think how often I may change in my opinion, I do not see how I can cease to be a Hindu. I am born a Hindu, and one of the tenets of Hinduism is that you are born. You must be born a Hindu. I do not see how human beings can change what is created by God. When these priests come forward and say he is a convert, he has gone over to the other religion, all I can say is that they do not understand the grand principles of Hindu religion. If I am born a Hindu how can a priest's water or recitation of Mantras turn me into some thing else, into a race horse? How any human agency can change me into anything else? Therefore I am not going to give up my hereditary heritage. The less we hear of this silly talk of 'go and marry under the Civil Marriage Act' the better for all concerned. My duty is that I should see that Hindu society is reformed and that it is brought in conformity with the changing environments of the time. This is what I think I owe to myself and to the society to which I have the proud privilege to belong.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) Has the Honourable Member concluded his speech?

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: I have many more things to talk about. The Hindu society is such a very big thing.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim). The Honourable Member can continue his speech on the next day allotted for Bills. The House stands adjourned till Monday, 11 A.M.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Monday, the 18th November, 1944.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Monday, 13th November, 1944

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber of the Council House at Eleven of the Clock, Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) in the Chair.

MEMBER SWORN.

Mr. L. S. Vaidyanathan, M.L.A. (Government of India Nominated Official).

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(a) ORAL ANSWERS

COMMUNAL COMPOSITION IN HIGHER POSTS OF OFFICERS UNDER THE INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING DEPARTMENT

262. *Sardar Sant Singh: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Information and Broadcasting please state the number of posts carrying monthly salaries of Rs. 500 to Rs. 750, Rs. 750 to Rs. 1,000, Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 1,500, Rs. 1,500 and above in (i) his Department (Information and Broadcasting), (ii) the National War Front—Central Organisation, (iii) the Advertising Section, (iv) Song Publicity Organisation, (v) Exhibition Section, (vi) the Counter Propaganda Directorate, (vii) the office of the Chief Press Adviser, (viii) the Information Films of India, (ix) the Bureau of Public Information, and (x) the office of the Controller of Broadcasting?

(b) How many of these posts under each category are held by (i) Europeans, (ii) Anglo-Indians, (iii) Hindus, (iv) Muslims, (v) Sikhs, and (vi) others?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: (a) and (b). I lay a statement on the table

Statement showing the number of Officers drawing Rs. 500 per mensem and above under the administrative control of the Information and Broadcasting Department and the communities to which they belong

	Euro- peans	Anglo- Indians.	Hindus	Muslims	Sikhs.	Others	Total.
<i>Main Department (including Smila Office)</i>							
<i>Officers drawing salaries from—</i>							
Rs. 500 p. m. to Rs. 750	..	1	3	3	1	..	8
Rs. 750 to Rs. 1,000	1	1	..	..	2
Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 1,500	..	2	3	..	..	..	5
Rs. 1,500 and above	..	2	1	1	..	..	4
<i>National War Front</i>							
Rs. 500 to Rs. 750	1	1
Rs. 750 to Rs. 1,000	2	..	1	3
Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 1,500	2	1	..	..	3
Rs. 1,500 and above	1	..	..	1
<i>Advertising Branch</i>							
Rs. 500 to Rs. 750	1	..	..	1
Rs. 750 to Rs. 1,000
Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 1,500	..	1	..	..	..	..	1
Rs. 1,500 and above
<i>Song Publicity Organisation</i>							
Rs. 500 to Rs. 750	1	..	..	1
Rs. 750 to Rs. 1,000	1	..	..	..	1
Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 1,500	1	..	..	1
Rs. 1,500 and above
<i>War Services Exhibition</i>							
Rs. 500 to Rs. 750
Rs. 750 to Rs. 1,000	1	2	..	..	3
Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 1,500	..	3	1	..	1	..	5
Rs. 1,500 and above	1	..	..	..	1
<i>Counter Propaganda Directorate</i>							
Rs. 500 to Rs. 750	1	..	2	6
Rs. 750 to Rs. 1,000	1	1	..	2
Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 1,500	1	..	1	2
Rs. 1,500 and above	..	1	..	..	..	..	..

	Euro- peans	Anglo- Indians	Hindus	Muslims	Sikhs	Others	Total
<i>Chief Press Adviser</i>							
Rs 500 to Rs. 750 . . . . .	..	..	1	..	..	2	3
Rs. 750 to Rs. 1,000	1	..	..	..	..	..	1
Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 1,500 . . . . .	..	..	1	..	..	..	1
Rs. 1,500 and above . . . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
<i>Information Films of India</i>							
Rs 500 to Rs. 750 . . . . .	..	..	10	1	..	2	13
Rs. 750 to Rs. 1,000	1	..	6	..	..	1	8
Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 1,500	1	..	..	..	..	..	1
Rs. 1,500 and above	1	..	..	..	..	1	2
<i>Bureau of Public Information</i>							
Rs 500 to Rs. 750 . . . . .	..	..	8	2	..	..	10
Rs. 750 to Rs. 1,000	1	1	3	1	..	1	7
Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 1,500 . . . . .	..	..	2	1	..	..	3
Rs. 1,500 and above . . . . .	..	..	1	..	..	..	1
<i>All India Radio</i>							
Rs. 500 to Rs. 750 . . . . .	..	..	2	1	..	..	3
Rs. 750 to Rs. 1,000 . . . . .	..	..	3	..	..	1	4
Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 1,500 . . . . .	..	..	1	1	..	1	3
Rs. 1,500 and above	1	..	..	1	..	..	2
<i>Summary</i>							
From Rs 500 to Rs. 750 . . . . .	..	1	26	10	1	5	43
From Rs. 750 to Rs. 1,000	2	1	16	7	1	6	33
From Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 1,500	8	..	9	6	1	2	26
From Rs. 1,500 and above	5	1	3	3	..	1	13
Total	15	3	54	26	3	14	114

RECONSTRUCTION COMMITTEES.

263. *Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: Will the Honourable Member for Planning and Development please state if all the Reconstruction Committees intended to be constituted in February, 1943, are now constituted; if so,

(i) the number of meetings held of each of the Reconstruction Committees, and the conclusions reached, if any, by these committees;

(ii) the decisions taken by the Government as a result of the conclusions reached, and

(iii) the steps taken to give effect to the decisions taken by the Government?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: Yes, Sir. I lay on the table of the House a statement showing the number of meetings held of the various Policy Committees

(i) The function of these Committees is to advise Government on any matters placed before them and this advice is taken into consideration by Government when formulating its plans

(ii) I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to the second report on Reconstruction planning.

Statement giving the names of Policy Committees and the number of meetings so far held

Name of Policy Committee	Number of meetings so far held
General Policy Committee	3
Policy Committee No. 1 on Re-settlement and Re-employment	1
Policy Committee No. 2 on Disposals, Contracts and Government Purchases	N/A
Policy Committee No. 3A on Transport	N/A
Policy Committee No. 3B on Posts and Aviation	1
Policy Committee No. 3C on Public Works and Electric Power	1
Policy Committee No. 4A on Trade and Commerce	3†
Policy Committee No. 4B on Industries	1
Policy Committee No. 4C on Shipping	N/A
Policy Committee No. 6 on Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries	1

(A meeting is being called on the 7th December.)

†Includes two meetings held by Committee throughout August 1944

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: No answer has been given to the latter part of (i), namely, "the conclusions reached, if any, by these Committees"?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: May I explain to the Honourable Member that definite issues on which decisions of Committees are required are not placed before them. What happens is that discussion on general lines takes place and the views of the Committee are noted by Government and taken into account in formulating their policy.

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Salt: There must be a report of the opinions noted down by the Government.

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: The proceedings of the Committee are taken down by the Government.

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Salt: And published?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: That will be replied to in answer to a further question.

Sardar Sant Singh: How are the reconstruction committees constituted?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: I do not quite follow the Honourable Member. They are constituted of people whom we regard as representative of public opinion on such matters.

Sardar Sant Singh: How is the personnel formed for these committees? Is it on the recommendation of the Chamber of Commerce or the industry concerned or is it merely nomination by the Government of India, and if it is nomination, then on what principle nomination takes place?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: The non-officials are nominated by the Government of India on the basis of their own knowledge of such gentlemen. Apart from that, there are representatives of Provinces and also some representatives of States on that Committee together with the representatives of the Central Government and representatives of the Chambers of Commerce.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I ask whether Government is aware that on these Committees, labour is not adequately represented at all and whether Government propose to take any steps with regard to representation of labour?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: No, Sir. The Honourable Member for Labour is very keen on the representation of Labour on these Committees and as a matter of fact labour Members are represented on all of them.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: Is there any representation of agriculturists on these Committees?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: Yes, Sir, definitely.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Does the list give information only for one year, that is, 1944 or does it give a list from the commencement of War?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: There is a complete list.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What is the relation between these Committees and the Reconstruction Committee of Council?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: The Reconstruction Committee is the Reconstruction Committee of the Executive Council of Government.

INSTALLATION OF BROADCASTING STATION AT NAGPUR.

264. *Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: Will the Honourable Member for Information and Broadcasting please state if he is aware that a demand for a Broadcasting Station at Nagpur, C. P., has been constantly made and brought to the notice of the Government of India, and that they have made promises more than once to establish it there? If so, having regard to the circumstances mentioned below will the Government establish it now—

- (i) rapid expansion of Nagpur, the capital city of the Province; and
- (ii) the city's importance from the point of its situation, being a central place and on the air routes of trade, industry and administration?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: Yes. As promised before, the claim of Nagpur to have a broadcasting station will be considered as part of the next programme of development to be undertaken. At present it is not possible to establish any new broadcasting station owing to the difficulty of importing the requisite equipment from abroad in the present war conditions.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: In view of the circumstances mentioned in parts (i) and (ii) and the fact that there are aerodromes round about Nagpur, will this Nagpur Broadcasting Station be considered an emergency war measure and priority given to it?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: No, Sir. I regret that it is not possible to consider it as an emergency war measure, notwithstanding the circumstances mentioned by the Honourable Member.

Mr. Lalchand Navsarl: Is the Honourable Member aware that many more promises were given as regards Karachi and is the Honourable Member aware that Karachi is much more important in all respects and will the Honourable Member consider the advisability of taking up the construction of a Broadcasting Station at Karachi sooner than Nagpur and before the war ends?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Next question.

STABILIZATION OF PRICES.

255. *Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state if it is not a fact that the prices of nearly all the articles in the United Kingdom in the year 1944 are the same as they were in October, 1939?

(b) Why did the Government of India not attempt to stabilize the prices when these prices have been stabilized in England?

(c) Is it not a fact that the Government of India in order to stabilize its prices purchase commodities in London at the price of 1939?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) The answer is in the negative.

(b) The Government of India have attempted to stabilize prices but, the conditions in India and England being different, the methods and procedure adopted for the stabilisation of prices as well as the time of their adoption have necessarily also been different. There was moreover a considerable body of opinion that prices in India before the war were undesirably low.

(c) It is not a fact.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Is it not a fact that price index in the United Kingdom has risen about 28 per cent., and in most cases much less than 28 per cent., while the rise in price index is sometimes 300 per cent and 400 per cent in India?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: The information before me shows that the increase in wholesale price in the United Kingdom since August 1939 for all articles is 71 per cent., for food, tobacco, 76 per cent and for industrial materials and manufacture, 68 per cent. That is a good deal more than what the Honourable Member has been suggesting.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: What are the corresponding figures for India?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: The corresponding figures for all articles, 142 per cent., for food, tobacco and other agricultural commodities, 162 per cent., for industrial materials and manufactures 181 per cent.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Apart from the official figures of rice in prices which the Government get, is the Honourable Member aware that actually in the market, people have to pay more?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I am aware that owing to local conditions and difficulties, prices in particular areas are sometimes even higher than these.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: May I know what percentage of price of industrial commodities have come to be stabilised by Government?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I am afraid I cannot say that in answer to a supplementary question. I am not sure I understand the question at all.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What percentage of industrial goods have come to be stabilised in their prices?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: If what the Honourable Member means is what part of the whole field has come under control quantitatively, then I require notice.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: In view of the admission of Government that the index figures are under-stated, will they take steps to get the real figures of the rise in prices?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: These figures represent the average position; in local areas you may get a higher index or a lower index than these.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Have the Government of India taken any action to reduce the price index and bring it down to the level of the United Kingdom? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: It has been the constant endeavour of the Government of India to moderate the rise in prices that was taking place. They could not set themselves a specific target such as that in the United Kingdom, or if they did, they would not have been able to achieve it owing to the different conditions in India.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Is it not a fact that the process or the method that they have adopted in order to reduce the price is that they want to take away by force or by various other methods the notes under circulation? And does he think that by this method the prices will be lowered?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: The Government of India have not concentrated simply on an attempt to mop up surplus currency. They have at the same time pursued other lines such as direct control of the prices of goods and control of supplies.

APPOINTMENTS IN THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

266. *Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Planning and Development be pleased to explain the number of new appointments which have been made in the Planning and Development Department of the Government of India?

(b) What is the total number of persons appointed in this Department—

(i) whose salary is above Rs 750, and

(ii) whose salary is below Rs 750?

How many of these are Mussalmans?

(c) Why was the Resolution of 1934 by the Home Department reserving 25 per cent places for the Mussalmans not followed in this new Department?

(d) If the Resolution of 1934 is not applied on the ground that posts in this Department are considered to be technical, will the Honourable Member name some posts which are not technical?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: (a) The Department was constituted on the 1st August, 1944 by the absorption of the staff of the War Resources and Reconstruction Committees of Council. The appointments made since then are—

(i) Officers (all drawing over Rs 750)—three, of whom one is a Muslim

(ii) Ministerial staff, including Superintendents (all drawing less than Rs 750)—12, of whom three are Muslims

(iii) Stenographers—three, of whom none is a Muslim

(b) (i) Officers—seven, of whom one is a Muslim.

(ii) Ministerial Staff—34, of whom eight are Muslims

(iii) Stenographers—seven, of whom none is a Muslim

(c) and (d) The Home Department Resolution of 1934 which, as the Honourable Member is aware, applies only to direct recruitment and not to recruitment by promotion was followed as far as practicable in making appointments in my Department. Unfortunately no qualified Muslim stenographer was available.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: If the Department was opened in August last how does the question of promotion arise? Every appointment would be a new appointment and transfer from other Departments would not constitute promotion, which usually takes place in the same Department.

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: That is correct.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Then how can my Honourable friend avoid the question on the ground that these appointments are promotions?

The Honourable Sir Ardesbir Dalal: But we appointed as many Muslims as we could.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Apart from that, the Honourable Member said that the Resolution of 1934 cannot be applied to promotions, but as far as his Department is concerned the question of promotion does not arise.

The Honourable Sir Ardesbir Dalal: That is correct.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Do Government propose to accept the suggestion recently made by me that they should publish an annual report giving the number of officers and other employees in the various Departments and sections arranged according to communities, so as to avoid these questions?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: If the Honourable Member will look into the library of the House he will find a statement of a somewhat similar nature.

Sardar Sant Singh: Is there any publication in the library which gives information for each Department community-wise of the posts occupied by them along with emoluments, apart from the General Civil List?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: The Honourable Member may kindly put down a question.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Have people been taken in this Department from other Departments or new people have been recruited?

The Honourable Sir Ardesbir Dalal: I have explained what new recruitments have been made since the Department was constituted and what has been taken over from the War Resources Committee of the Reconstruction Committee of the Council. But technically as they were taken over in a new Department the Honourable Member is correct that they must be regarded as new appointments.

DESIABILITY OF INCREASING DEARNESS ALLOWANCE FOR STAFF OF AUDIT AND ACCOUNT OFFICES

†267. ***Seth Yusuf Abdoolo Haroon:** (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state whether it is a fact that permanent staff in Audit and Account Offices in India has not been afforded any relief except Rs 14 per month as Dearness Allowance up to Rs 200?

(b) Is it a fact that unlike other offices of the Central Government men in Audit and Account Offices have been afforded no opportunities to officiate as Superintendent in their offices?

(c) Is it a fact that in all the Audit and Account Offices in India there is more than half temporary staff and that the permanent staff has to discharge more duties and undertake responsibilities on this score?

(d) Do Government propose to afford more generous and immediate relief to the poverty-stricken permanent staff in the Audit and Account Offices in the shape of more Dearness Allowance or in revising the existing scales of pay? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Baisman: (a) No. In common with other Central Government servants the permanent staff in Audit and Accounts Offices are eligible for the war allowance and concessional travelling allowance, details of which were given in my reply to the Honourable Member's starred question No. 176 on the 8th November 1944. In addition, ministerial Government servants in Bombay, Calcutta and Delhi, whose pay does not exceed Rs. 600 a month, are now eligible for a house rent allowance, and those in Delhi for a conveyance allowance as well.

(b) Promotions to the grade of superintendents in Audit and Accounts offices are normally made only from amongst men who have passed the Subordinate Accounts Service Examination.

(c) Temporary staff in all offices of Audit and Accounts average a little less than a half. In order to relieve the additional burden inevitably thrown by war conditions on permanent staff, a training reserve has been sanctioned

† Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner being absent.

by the Auditor General in all his offices. This training reserve has been in existence for some time and will be continued for so long as circumstances require it.

(d) I would refer the Honourable Member to my reply to part (d) of his Starred Question No 176 of the 8th November 1944. I do not consider it appropriate to undertake the revision of permanent scales of pay at the present time.

DESIRABILITY OF PLACING POSTAL AUDIT OFFICES UNDER DIRECT CONTROL OF AUDITOR GENERAL.

†268. *Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state if it is a fact that all the Civil and Military Account and Audit Offices in India are under the direct administrative control of the Auditor General of India?

(b) Is it a fact that barring the above offices, only four Postal Audit offices in Delhi, Calcutta, Nagpur and Madras are in the administrative control of the Auditor General through the Accountant General, Posts and Telegraphs, Simla?

(c) Why should the above four offices, in the interest of economy and better administration be not placed directly under the Auditor General of India?

(d) Will the Government be pleased to consider the propriety or otherwise of abolishing the Office of the Accountant General of Posts and Telegraphs, Simla, and placing the four Postal Audit Offices under the direct control of the Auditor General by having a separate section to deal with their affairs, with an extra Assistant Auditor General to cope with the increased work? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Baisman: (a) The Indian Audit Department is under the administrative control of the Auditor General of India. Military and Supply Account Offices are under the administrative control immediately of the Military Accountant General, and ultimately of the Financial Adviser War and Supply; their work is test audited only by staff under the Auditor General.

(b) In addition to the four Postal Offices, the Railway Audit Offices and the Offices of the Audit Department, Defence Services, are also administered by the Auditor General of India through officers of the rank of Accountant General.

(c) and (d) Government do not consider that it would be in the interests of economy and good administration, or even practicable to absorb the office of the Accountant General, Posts and Telegraphs in the office of the Auditor General and abolish the post of Accountant General, Posts and Telegraphs which is one of the heaviest charges in the Indian Audit Department. The work done in Postal Audit Offices requires the day-to-day administration of a very senior officer with special knowledge of the working of the Posts and Telegraphs Department.

REFUSALS OF LEAVE IN AUDIT AND ACCOUNTS OFFICES.

†269. *Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state if it is a fact that in Audit and Account Offices men have to wait long for the grant of leave on average pay for want of a leave reserve?

(b) Is it a fact that men actually sick are refused leave for want of a leave reserve and when they produce medical certificates in support of their leave they are sent to the Chief Medical Officer for countersignature of their Medical certificates even for a month's leave on Medical ground?

(c) Do Government propose to issue necessary instructions to the heads of all Departments to grant leave freely to all those who apply for leave on account of their own illness or the illness of their family members and to stop sending medical certificates for less than a month's leave to the Chief Medical Officers for countersignature?

(d) Will the Government be also pleased to consider the feasibility of raising the leave reserve in Audit and Account Offices from 10 per cent. of the sanctioned strength to 15 per cent. as before to facilitate the grant of leave freely to the most needy people? If not, why not?

†Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner being absent.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) A leave reserve exists in all Audit and Accounts offices. Government are not aware that staff in these offices have to wait unduly for leave, though war conditions undoubtedly preclude the grant of leave as freely, or for such long periods, as in normal times.

(b) Government are not aware that medical leave has been refused or deferred except in cases where malingering is suspected

(c) The Auditor General has already issued instructions that short annual leave should be freely granted. No instructions can expediently be issued precluding heads of offices from obtaining the countersignature of the competent medical officer on medical certificates if they have reason for doubting the necessity or extent of the leave recommended in them. Government have no reason to believe that Heads of Audit offices have abused their discretion in this matter.

(d) No. The leave reserve in Audit and Accounts offices is 12½ per cent of the sanctioned strength of each grade and not 10 per cent, and this in the opinion of Government is adequate.

REST AND RECREATION ALLOWANCE FOR STAFF OF AUDIT AND ACCOUNTS OFFICES

†270. ***Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon:** (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state if it is a fact that the Government of India have recently sanctioned the grant of travelling allowance up to a maximum of Rs 300 to Government servants not drawing dearness allowance of Rs 14 per month?

(b) Is the Central Government aware of the fact that in most of the Audit and Account Offices the maximum of the clerical grade is up to Rs 200 and that very few members of the clerical grade in any Audit and Accounts Offices have been benefited by the above recreation measure?

(c) Do Government propose to extend the above concession to all the non-gazetted staff of the Audit and Account Offices, as a special case, as in their category neither any emergency cadre has been introduced, nor has any other relief measure (except the dearness allowance) been sanctioned for the permanent staff of these Offices? If not why not?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a), (b) and (c) I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply which I gave to his starred question No 176 on the 8th November 1944.

UNIFIED SCALE OF PAY FOR TEMPORARY STAFF IN AUDIT AND ACCOUNTS OFFICES.

†271. ***Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon:** (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state if it is a fact that unified scale of pay has been recently sanctioned for the temporary staff in the Audit and Account Offices in India?

(b) Is it a fact that although this unified scale of pay will afford some relief to those getting less than Rs 100 as their pay it affords practically no relief to those getting above Rs 100 and to those who have reached the maximum of their old scale of pay?

(c) Do Government propose to consider the feasibility of revising the existing scales of pay for all such old employees of the Audit and Accounts Offices who have grown grey in the service of the Department or to grant some other compensatory allowance till such time their scales are also revised?

(d) Is it a fact that the scales of pay in the Audit and Accounts Offices are lower than those in vogue in the Imperial and Provincial Secretariats?

(e) Why should the existing low scales of pay in the Audit and Accounts Offices not be immediately revised as requested by the Audit and Accounts Offices Conference in its Session held on the 5th and 6th June, 1944, at Karachi which are as under:

Subordinate Accounts Service—Rs. 400—80—700;
Divisional Accountants—Rs. 280—20—600;
Upper Divisional Clerks—Rs. 150—15—450;
Lower Divisional Clerks—Rs. 100—5—150—10—800; and
Sorters Class in Postal Audit Offices—Rs. 60—4—160.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Baisman: (a) Yes. Permanent staff may also elect the unified pay scale sanctioned for temporary staff for the period it is in force.

(b) The introduction of the unified scales of pay was primarily intended not to afford relief, but to facilitate recruitment and to prevent drift of staff from one Central office to another. A certain proportion of clerks in Audit and Accounts Offices will, however, on qualifying, be promoted to 'A' grade the scale for which rises to Rs. 200 per mensem.

(c) I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply I have given to-day to part (d) of his starred question No. 267.

(d) The scales of pay in the Imperial Secretariat are higher, the relative position in the provinces is not uniform.

(e) The existing scales of pay were fixed having regard to the relative responsibilities of the work to be done, and, as already indicated, I do not consider it appropriate to undertake the revision of permanent scales of pay at the present time.

SALE OF SOUTH AFRICAN GOLD IN INDIA

272. *Mr. K. S. Gupta: (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state the total amount of South African gold sold in India from the 1st April, 1944 to the 1st October, 1944?

(b) What is the purchase price of an ounce of gold from South Africa?

(c) What is the sale price of an ounce of the same in India?

(d) What is the agency by which the above said gold is sold in India?

(e) What is the total profit accrued by the sale of South African gold in India during the years 1941, 1942 and 1943?

(f) Is England or India to enjoy the profits by such sales?

(g) If India is denied the privilege of enjoying the profits, why?

(h) Did the Government of India make any representations in the matter? If so, would they be placed on the table? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Baisman: (a) to (e) As I said in reply to Starred question No. 191 asked by Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari on the 8th November, 1944, gold sales are made by the Reserve Bank on behalf of the Governments of the U K and the U S A. The Government of India are not aware of the origin of this gold and cannot say what quantity of the gold sold in India on behalf of these two Governments came from South Africa.

(f) to (h) I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to my remarks during the Budget debate on the 7th March, 1944, in reply to Mr. Krishnamachari's criticism regarding the alleged profit on gold sales.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it a fact that the sale price of gold is fast going down and Government expect it to go down still further at the end of the war?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Baisman: It is a fact that the price of gold has been declining recently. As regards the future, I would prefer not to make a statement.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it a fact that the National War Front has been telling people that the price of gold is likely to go down at the end of the war and therefore people would be better advised to contribute to war loans rather than invest their money in gold?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Baisman: I believe they have been advertising to this effect.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: In view of the present tendency of the price of gold to come down will the Honourable Member take steps to stop the sale of gold to private individuals who would otherwise suffer a loss?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Baisman: Nobody is compelled by the Government of India to buy gold and the individuals in question are presumably quite as capable of judging the trends as my Honourable friend or myself.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it a fact that there is no private sale of gold by Government in England or America arranged for the doubtful benefit of private individuals there?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Baisman: I have not got detailed information, but I believe my Honourable friend is correct.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Have the Government of India given authority to the Reserve Bank to sell gold at prices higher than world parity prices? If so, where does the additional profit go?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Baisman: As regards the first part, I cannot disclose the instructions, if any, given by the Government of India to the Reserve Bank. As regards the second part, I have already dealt with that.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: In whose pockets does that go and in what way is that excess profit paid? Is it not by the reduction of our one thousand crores credit in the United Kingdom?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Baisman: I have already replied to a large number of questions on that point.

SALE OF SOUTH AFRICAN GOLD IN INDIA.

273. *Mr. K. S. Gupta: (a) Is the Honourable the Finance Member aware of the bitter comment in the Union about the flagrant case of profiteering by Britain by making a middleman's profit of sixty per cent?

(b) Does the Union claim that this profit should legitimately go to South Africa?

(c) What is the view of the Government of India in the matter of enjoying the profits?

(d) What is the object of selling South African gold in India? Should not the margin between the London and Indian prices go to India?

(e) Is it a fact that the British Government agreed to give the Union facilities for sharing in the sale of gold on the Indian market to the extent to which the Union's import requirements justified this?

(f) Are the Government of India aware of the feeling in India that it has done nothing so far to safeguard Indian interests and that it is high time the India Government did something to secure a fair deal for themselves?

(g) Is the agreement between the Treasury of the Union and the Bank of England available for the Government of India? If so, would it be laid on the table? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Baisman: (a) and (b) I have seen some press reports from South Africa criticising the fixed price paid for gold purchased by the U K Government from South Africa as compared with the prices prevailing in India, and claiming that South Africa should get the benefit of the higher prices.

(c) The Government of India are not concerned in the arrangements between the U K and South Africa.

(d) As I have stated in my reply to question No 272 today, no gold is sold on behalf of the South African Government. As regards the object of sales by H. M. G. and U S A., I would refer the Honourable Member to para. 48 of my speech on the Budget for 1944-45. As regards the latter part of the question I have nothing to add to my remarks on the 7th March, 1944, during the debate on the Budget (pages 941-42 of the Legislative Assembly Debates, Vol. II, No 6).

(e) The Government of India are not aware of the arrangements between H. M. G. and the South African Government.

(f) The answer is in the negative.

(g) The Government of India are not aware of any such agreement between the Treasury of the Union and the Bank of England.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What are the special reasons that have persuaded Government to start this sale of gold to private individuals in this country?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Baisman: I have already explained that in my Budget Speech. Broadly speaking, the reasons were anti-inflationary.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I know from the Honourable Member what is exactly meant by the agreement which he has referred to in reply to part (g) of the question?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Baisman: I said in reply that the Government of India are not aware of any such agreement. In reply to part (c), I said the Government of India are not concerned in the arrangements between the United Kingdom and South Africa.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Does the Honourable Member mean that there are some arrangements with which the Government of India are not concerned, or does he mean that there are no arrangements?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Baisman: I have said that the Government of India are not aware of any such agreement between the Treasury of the Union and the Bank of England.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Is there any agreement between the Government of the United Kingdom and the Government of South Africa?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Baisman: The question I was asked is about an agreement between the Treasury of the Union and the Bank of England. I do not know about any other agreement, either.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: With reference to part (c), the Honourable Member replied, if I have heard him correctly, that he is not concerned with any agreement between the United Kingdom and the South African Government.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Baisman: I said I am not concerned in the arrangements between His Majesty's Government and the South African Government.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Does he mean that there is an arrangement with which he is not concerned?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Baisman: I am not aware, and I am not concerned.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) Neft question

SECURING SILVER FROM AMERICA.

274. *Mr. K. S. Gupta: (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state if it is a fact that the Government of India decided to secure 100,000,000 ounces of silver from the United States of America?

(b) When was the decision taken, and for what purpose?

(c) Is it the intention of the Government of India to make use of the metal to serve as an anti-inflationary device? Has the purpose been served? If so, what are the effects on currency and prices in the country?

(d) How many crores of rupees worth of silver have been sold by the Government of India since the beginning of the war?

(e) Is the sale of silver carried on in order to finance their programme of repatriation of sterling debt?

(f) What is the price realized by the sale of an ounce of silver in the manner above stated? Is it not a fact that the Indian purchaser had to pay at that time twice the amount for the same quantity?

(g) Is it not a fact that the silver sold by the Government of India accumulated over a series of years by paying not only the market price but also a special duty on silver on every ounce imported ranging from two annas to seven annas?

(h) Is it not a fact that something like eight annas in the rupee was lost by such sales by the Government of India?

(i) What is the total loss sustained by the Government of India by the above transactions?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Baisman: (a) and (b). The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the Press Communiqués dated the 15th June and 11th July, 1944, issued on this subject. I am, however, not prepared to disclose the date on which the decision was taken.

(c) Yes, partly. Sales of silver tend to reduce the volume of currency in circulation and to lower silver prices.

(d) Information regarding the total sales of silver is published in the Central Appropriation Accounts (Civil) for each year, copies of which are supplied to

Honourable Members. In conformity with their past practice in the matter Government are not prepared to disclose their recent silver transactions.

(e) to (i) I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to the replies I gave to parts (a), (b) and (d) of Mr. K. C. Neogy's starred question No. 62 on the 16th September, 1942.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Why are the Government of India purchasing large quantities of silver?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: This question relates to a large quantity of silver which the Government of India have obtained from the Government of the United States of America.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it in return to the purchases that the United States of America are making in this country or is it a part of the Lease-Lend transactions?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: It is a separate Lease-Lend transaction.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: What is the answer to part (i) of this question?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: In answer to part (i), along with other parts, I made a reference to certain replies I gave to a previous question.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: In pre-war days the Government of India have themselves been in possession of large quantities of silver for the disposal of which they did not know what to do. Will the Government of India consider the advisability of stopping any further purchase of silver which is accumulating in this country and which they will have to dispose of again at the end of the war?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: As my Honourable friend is aware, I think circumstances alter from time to time. There have been times when the Government of India was embarrassed by an excess of silver and there have been times when the contrary was the case. The Government of India consider that at the present time the possession of large quantities of silver may be extremely useful to them in assisting to control the economic situation.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) Next question.

LAND LEASES EXECUTED IN ALMORA CANTONMENT

275. *Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: (a) Will the Honourable the Defence Member be pleased to state whether the house proprietors of the Almora Cantonment executed any leases for the land they occupy within the present limits of the Almora Cantonment?

(b) On what date or dates and in what year or years were these leases executed, and were the same registered?

(c) What is the period of these leases, and on what annual rent, if any, have these been granted?

(d) What is meant by "old grant" under which the Almora Cantonment land is said to be held by the fourteen proprietors of the houses?

(e) When were these grants applied for, and when were these granted? Is there any notification of these grants having been made?

(f) Who were the original grantees?

(g) Which are the two cases where the land within the Almora Cantonment is privately owned?

(h) From where can the copies of these old grants be obtained?

(i) What were the terms of the old grant?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: (a), (b) and (c) Of the 17 sites held by private persons for residential purposes in the Almora Cantonment, 16 are held on "Old Grants" and one on lease. This lease was executed in May of this year and was registered at the office of the Sub Registrar, Almora District. The period of the lease is 80 years renewable to 90. The annual rent reserved is Rs. 1 only.

(d) The sixteen sites for which no leases exist are presumed to be held under the terms of Governor General's Order No. 179 of 12th September, 1836. This

tenure is commonly known as an 'Old Grant' under which Government retain their proprietary rights in the land.

(e) There are no records traceable to show when these Old Grants were applied for or granted.

(f) A statement showing the names of the original grantees as far as they are known from the records available is laid on the table

(g) The two cases are—

(1) Survey No. 40—A *Dharamshala* owned by one Sukhdeo

(2) Survey No. 88—A *Takia* owned by one Musammat Naziran wife of Chotea Sakhawat.

(h) and (i) The terms of what is known as "Old Grants" are contained in General Order of the Governor General in Council No. 179, dated the 12th September, 1836, published on page 9 of the Book entitled "Rules, Regulations and Orders issued from time to time by the Governments of the Bengal, Madras and Bombay Presidencies and the competent military authorities between the years 1789 and 1809, in respect of the grant of sites of lands and the occupation of lands and houses in Cantonments, in British India" This publication is available for inspection at the offices of the Cantonment Board, Almora, and the Military Estates Officer, Lucknow Circle, Lucknow Cantonment.

Statement showing the names of the past and present grantees of sites on Old Grant terms in the Almora Cantonment

Serial No.	Survey No.	Description	Name of present owner.	Name of Previous Grantee.
1	4/1	Butt Cottage	B. Har Singh	
2	28	Bungalow	B. Badri Dutt Joshi	
3	31	House	L. Jagannath Sah, Basant Lal Sah and Pyare Lal Sah, sons of L. Ishwari Lal Sah.	L. Ishwari Lal Sah.
4	35	Becket House	Jagdesh Chandra Joshi, Mohan Chandra Joshi, Nabun Chandra Joshi, sons of Pt. Lachmi Datt Joshi and Pt. Hari Datt Joshi	Pt. Laxmi Datt, Jyenna Datt and Hari Datt Joshi.
5	55	Bungalow	R. S. Lala Anit Ram Sah & Sons	
6	57	Bungalow	Lala Lachmi Ram Sah Thulgaria, S/o Bhawan Das and Lala Gopal Sah S/o Amar Nath Sah	Lala Gobind Lal Sah, S/o Late L. Moti Ram Sah
7	74	Bungalow	Nazir Ahmed, S/o Nabi Bux	K. S. Sheikh Mohd. Husain and Nazir Ahmed.
8	107	No. 4 "The Pleasance"	L. Dwarka Persad Sah, L. Shrikrihan Persad Sah and L. Shanker Lal Sah, sons of L. Gopal Sah	L. Eshwari Lal Sah.
9	111	Bungalow	Lala Debi Lal Sah	
10	115	Bungalow	Pt. R. D. Bhatt	
11	119	Bungalow	Jagdesh Chandra Joshi, Mohan Chandra Joshi, Nabun Chandra Joshi, sons of Pt. Lakshmi Datt Joshi and Pt. Hari Datt Joshi	Pt. Lakshmi Datt, Jyenna Datt and Hari Datt Joshi, sons of R. B. Pt. Badri Datt Joshi.
12	123	Bungalow	Pt. Durga Datt Joshi	
13	126	Bungalow	Jagdesh Chandra Joshi, Mohan Chandra Joshi, Nabun Chandra Joshi, sons of Pt. Lakshmi Datt Joshi and Pt. Hari Datt Joshi.	Pt. Lakshmi Datt, Jyenna Datt and Hari Datt Joshi, sons of R. B. Badri Datt Joshi.
14	142	Bungalow (River View)	L. Debi Lal Sah, S/o L. Keshab Lal Sah.	Lala Keshab Lal Sah and Mr. Inder Lal.
15	145	Bungalow (Brighton Lodge).	L. Debi Lal Sah, S/o L. Keshab Lal Sah.	Lala Keshab Lal Sah and Mr. Inder Lal.
16	149	Bungalow	Lala Inder Lal, Nand Lal Durga and Puri Sah.	

POLICY AS OWNERSHIP OF TREES STANDING ON CANTONMENT LANDS.

276. **Mr. Badri Dutt Pande:** (a) Will the Honourable the Defence Member please state whether the Government of India, Army Department Notification No. 81484/5-A.D., dated May 28, 1926, regarding the policy of the Government on the ownership of trees standing on cantonment lands still holds good?

(b) Has there been any fresh notification in case the policy of the Government regarding the ownership of trees standing on cantonment land as laid down in the above notification has been revised or changed?

(c) Do the Government still stick to their answer given to starred question No. 591 (d) asked by Sardar Maṅgal Singh, M.L.A., and answered on the floor of this Assembly on September 11, 1936? If not, what have been the considerations compelling Government to revise the instructions mentioned as having been issued in the reply to starred question No. 591(d)?

(d) If fresh instructions have been issued, when were they issued, and were any objections from the persons affected or likely to be affected invited before issuing them?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: (a) and (b) Yes. The policy of Government is still the same, although in order to cope with the acute shortage of firewood that is general throughout India, these instructions were amplified but not superseded by the issue of further instructions under which Military Estates Officers and their Agents (Cantonment Executive Officers) were directed to market, without interfering with the occupier's use and enjoyment of growing timber, all dead and useless trees in cantonments. These instructions have been recently modified to the extent of directing that dead and useless trees in the compounds of bungalows are not to be cut down without the consent of the bungalow owner.

(c) Yes. The latter portion of the Honourable Member's question does not, therefore, arise.

(d) The instructions were issued in 1943 and 1944. Objections were not invited.

Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: Whom do the trees that are in the compounds of private owners belong?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: The trees belong to Government unless the terms of the lease contains a provision to the contrary.

CHARGES FOR TREES FELLED IN ALMORA CANTONMENT BUNGALOW COMPOUNDS

277. **Mr. Badri Dutt Pande:** (a) Has the attention of the Honourable the Defence Member been drawn to G.O. No. 390/XI-300, dated April 15, 1937, Municipal Department, Government of the United Provinces, to the G.O. C-in-Chief, Eastern Command, Nainital?

(b) Has this G.O. been superseded by any fresh G.O. *vis a vis* making charges for trees felled in the Almora Cantonment bungalow compounds with the permission of the Cantonment Authority?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: (a) and (b) No. Neither the Government of the U.P. nor the G.O. C-in-Chief, the late Eastern Command, referred the matter to the Government of India. Government is not, therefore, aware either of the contents of this document. Cantonments, however, do not fall within the scope of the functions of the Provincial Government.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is the United Provinces Tenancy Act, according to which these trees in compound of a bungalow belong to the owner of that building or the land and not to the Government or any Cantonment Board, applicable to these cantonments?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: The United Provinces Tenancy Act so far as I know—I am speaking subject to correction—does not apply to bungalows in cantonments.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Are we to understand that the Government of India are not prepared to extend to the owners of these bungalows at least the same rights that the tenants of land in the United Provinces are enjoying under the United Provinces Tenancy Act?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: That question does not arise. The United Provinces Tenancy Act does not apply to bungalows.

SHORTAGE OF FIRE-WOOD IN ALMORA.

278. *Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: (a) Will the Honourable the Defence Member please state whether there is any considerable shortage of fire-wood in Almora?

(b) Has it been decided in the case of Almora too that in all cases where Government consider themselves the proprietor of any land, all trees, dead or surplus standing thereon within the Almora Cantonment bungalow boundaries, should be sold to the bungalow-owners at a concession rate?

(c) How many trees standing within bungalow compounds of the Almora Cantonment have been sold at concession rates or otherwise during the years 1940 to 1944? What was the revenue derived from the sale of these trees? Who was the person who fixed prices for these trees? On what basis were these prices fixed?

(d) When desiring to sell or selling these dead or surplus trees, do the Government satisfy themselves that these trees were planted by their agency or were grown through any efforts on the part of the Government?

(e) Is any opportunity given to the person who possesses the compound to prove whether the tree sought to be cut and sold was planted and cared for by him?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: (a) No, Sir There is no shortage of firewood in that Cantonment

(b) Yes General instructions to this effect which apply to all Cantonments in India, including Almora, have been issued

(c) Only one tree standing in the compound of Bungalow No. 11/35 was sold during the years 1940-1944. This tree was sold to the bungalow-owner at the nominal price of Rs 2 The price was fixed by the Executive Officer, Almora Cantonment, in his capacity as Agent to the Military Estates Officer of the Circle, on the basis of the size and quality of the tree and in conformance with the concessional rates laid down by the Government in the instructions alluded to in my reply to part (b) of the Honourable Member's question

(d) and (e) These lands are Crown property and the trees standing on them belong *prima facie* to the Crown, but it is open to the occupier to show that he is entitled to the trees under the terms of the grant of the land to him

Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: Am I to understand that all fruit, all vegetable and other products that are produced inside the compound of a bungalow belong to the Government? Or does it belong to the private owner? This is very drastic

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: I have not been able to follow the Honourable Member's question Would he mind repeating it?

Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: He says the trees belong to the Government. Then do the vegetables, the flowers and the fruits also belong to the Government or to the private owner?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: The flowers are not trees

Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: Suppose there is fruit, say, Apricots or Apples. To whom do they belong?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: So far as I know the lessee or licensee is entitled to enjoy the fruits of the trees

LAND LEASES OF BUNGALOW-OWNERS OF ALMORA CANTONMENT.

279. *Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: (a) Has the attention of the Honourable the Defence Member been drawn to the Army Department letter No 1010-A D.4, dated the 10th December, 1928, to the G. O. C-in-Chief, Eastern Command, desiring to grant land to the present bungalow-owners of the Almora Cantonment since their holdings were held by them without any lease having been executed?

(b) If these holdings were held under what is said to be old grant, why were the holders thereof desired to execute leases under rule 13 (18) of the Cantonment Land Act Rules 1925?

(c) Were any leases executed subsequent to the above communication from the Army Department? If not, what reasons were adduced by the holders thereof against the execution of such leases?

- (d) Was any survey of the Almora Cantonment land made?
 (e) Were the holders of the land given an opportunity to refute the allegation that they held the land under any grant?
 (f) Were such rights as are now being claimed by the Government ever admitted by the holders of the Almora Cantonment land?
 (g) Under what circumstances has the remark 'Government rights admitted' been noted in the General Land Register, Almora Cantonment?
 (h) Was this admission of Government rights obtained in writing? If so, when?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: (a) In the letter quoted by the Honourable Member the Government of India stated that they had no objection to the grant of leases to eight residents of the Almora Cantonment who had expressed their desire to take out leases for the land they held on "Old Grant" terms.

(b) I am unable to say what guided these eight gentlemen in wishing to take out leases. We have no information on the matter.

(c) No leases had been executed. Government has no information on the point raised by the Honourable Member.

(d) The Special Lands Officer prepared the General Land Register and plan of the Almora Cantonment in the year 1929. A detailed survey of the Cantonment was carried out by the Survey of India in 1931-32.

(e) Yes, Sir. The Special Lands Officer in 1929 examined the whole question of tenure in this Cantonment and from his report it appears that he discussed the matter with certain individual holders of the land. In May 1913 a test case was instituted in the Civil Court against Pt. Raghubar Dutt Joshi and Pt. Krishna Nand Joshi, owners of bungalows Nos. 5 and 6, who along with certain others refused to acknowledge Government's proprietary title in the land. The case was decided in March 1914 declaring Government to be the owners of the sites in dispute.

(f), (g) and (h) The Special Lands Officer, as a result of his investigation in 1929, reported to Government that only one person, the occupant of Survey No. 28, out of the 17 holders, disputed Government's title to the land. Three such written admissions on stamped paper exist, they were made in 1940-1941. The remaining 13 entries in the General Land Register alluded to by the Honourable Member were made on the Special Lands Officer's report, and it is presumed that these admissions were made to the Special Lands Officer were made orally.

Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: Is it the intention of the Government to sell this Almora Cantonment to a private owner after the conclusion of the war? Is there any decision like that?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: I am sorry I cannot hear the Honourable Member.

Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: Has it been decided to sell the Almora Cantonment after the conclusion of the war?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: This does not arise from the question.

SALE OF SOUTH AFRICAN GOLD IN INDIA

280. **Mr. Manu Subedar:** (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state how much gold has arrived in India from South Africa since the beginning of the war, and on whose account?

(b) Is it a fact that the Reserve Bank of India have, at the instance of the Government of India, sold this gold in the market? If so, how much was sold during each quarter since the sales began?

(c) Is it a fact that the entire profits on the sale of gold have been transferred to South Africa?

(d) Have the Government of India represented that a portion of these profits should come to them?

(e) Do they propose to make such representation in the future?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) to (e). I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to the reply given by me to question No. 272 asked by Mr. K. S. Gupta to-day.

Mr. Manu Subedar: With regard to (a) my question is, how much gold has arrived in India from South Africa since the beginning of the war? This is purely the figure as recorded by the Customs people and I think the Honourable the Finance Member ought to give a reply to this. How much gold has been imported into India from South Africa? If he does not wish to answer the second part I do not want it. But how much gold has arrived since the beginning of the war?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: If the total amount could be disclosed without public detriment, it would already be included in the Customs returns.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Have the Government of India made any profits on account of the sales of this gold?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: No, Sir.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) Next question

RECONSTRUCTION COMMITTEES

231. *Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Planning and Development please state the number of committees and/or sub-committees constituted for the purpose of economic planning and development of India?

(b) Will he be pleased to lay on the table the details of the personnel of these committees?

(c) What is the number of reports submitted by each of these committees?

(d) Will the Members of the Legislature have access to these reports?

(e) Will the House be presented with a report of the work done by the Honourable Member's Department till now, together with a report of the work done by these committees?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshr Dalal: (a) and (b) I lay on the table of the House a statement giving the desired information.

(c) and (d) No reports are submitted by the Policy Committees, but a summary of the proceedings of each meeting is printed and circulated to members of the Committee. These proceedings were not intended for publication and were marked 'Confidential'.

(e) I invite the Honourable Member's attention to the First and Second Reports on Reconstruction Planning.

Statement giving the number, name and personnel of Policy and Official Committees

Name of Policy Committee—

- 1 General Policy Committee
- 2 Policy Committee No 1 on Re-settlement and Re-employment
- 3 Policy Committee No 2 on Disposals, Contracts and Government Purchases
- 4 Policy Committee No 3A on Transport
- 5 Policy Committee No 3B on Posts and Aviation
- 6 Policy Committee No 3C on Public Works and Electric Power
- 7 Policy Committee No 4A on Trade and Commerce
- 8 Policy Committee No 4B on Industries
- 9 Policy Committee No 4C on Shipping
- 10 Policy Committee No 5 on Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

Personnel—A list is given below

Official Sub-Committee—

There are official sub-committees corresponding to the Policy Committees except in respect of General Policy.

RECONSTRUCTION COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL

List of Members of the Various Policy Committees

NOTE—1 Representatives of the Government of India will be nominated with reference to the agenda for the meeting.

2 Representatives of Provincial Governments will be nominated by these Governments for each meeting.

3 The names and addresses of representatives of Indian States and non-officials on each Policy Committee are given below.

(a) *States' Representatives*

- 1 Sir C P Ramaaswami Aiyar, KCSI, KCIE,
- 2 Sir Mirza Ismail, KCIE
- 3 Mir Maqbool Mahmood

(b) *Non-Officials*

- 1 Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas, CIE, MBE,
- 2 Mr Jammadas M Mehta, M.L.A.,
- 3 Sir George Morton, OBE, M.C.,
- 4 Mr G D Birla,
- 5 Mr G L Mehta,
- 6 The Honourable Sir Rahimtoolah Chinoy,
- 7 Sir Robert Menzies,
- 8 Sir V T Krishnamachari, KCIE,
- 9 Sardar Bahadur Sir Datar Singh,
- 10 Sir Cowasjee Jehangir, KCIE, OBE, M.L.A.,
- 11 The Honourable Sir K Ramunni Menon,
- 12 The Honourable Mr Hossain Imam,
- 13 Mr N R Sarker,
- 14 Chowdhery Mukhter Singh,
- 15 Sir R K Shanmukham Chetty, KCIE,
- 16 Rao Bahadur N Siva Raj, M.L.A.,
- 17 Mr M A Ispahani,
- 18 Sir Muhammad Nawaz Khan, M.L.A.,
- 19 Mr C S Rangaaswami,
- 20 Begam J A Shah Nawaz,
- 21 Mr A D Shroff
- 22 Kumaramajah Sir Muthiah Chettiar of Chettinad
- 23 Mr F R Anthony, M.L.A.,
- 24 Sir Joseph Blore, KCSI, KCIE

POLICY COMMITTEE No 1—RE-SETTLEMENT AND RE-EMPLOYMENT.

(a) *States' Representatives*

- 1 B A Gakwar, Esq.,
- 2 Syed Bashir Hussain Zaidi, CIE,
- 3 Captain R G Wreford

(b) *Non-Officials*

- 1 Mr S C Joshi, M.A., LL.B.,
- 2 Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas, CIE, MBE,
- 3 Mr E S Miller,
- 4 Sir Vithal N Chandavarkar, M.L.A.,
- 5 Mr Sakarlal Balshhai, M.L.A.,
- 6 Mr W A M Walker, CBE, M.L.A.,
- 7 Lala Lakshmiyot Singhania,
- 8 Mr A H Bishop,
- 9 Mr Batanchand Hiranand,
- 10 Piere Lall Kurcel Talib M.L.A.,
- 11 Mr Zahur Ahmed Chondhary, M.L.A. (Bengal)
- 12 The Honourable Maharaja Sriachandra Nandy of Cosimbazar.
- 13 Nawab Sir Muhammad Yusef, Bar at-Law, M.L.A.,
- 14 Raja Sri Ram Seth M.L.C.,
- 15 Sir Muhammad Nawaz Khan, M.L.A.,
- 16 Mr V B Karnik, Advocate,
- 17 Major Nawab Jamshed Ali Khan, MBE M.L.A.,
- 18 Rai Sahib Captain Sunder Singh Bahadur, OBI, I.A. (P.C.D.)
- 19 The Honourable Sir A P Patro KCIE
- 20 Rao Bahadur Honv Cant Choudhuri Lal Chand O.B.F
- 21 Raja Jagannath Rakesh Singh,
- 22 The Honourable Sardar Sir Buta Singh, Kt, CBE,
- 23 Sardar Baghtur Singh Sandhanwalia, OBE,
- 24 Mr F R Anthony, M.L.A.

POLICY COMMITTEE No 2—DISPOSAL, CONTRACTS AND GOVERNMENT PURCHASES

(a) *States' Representatives*

- 1 Mr Ghulam Muhammad
- 2 Maharaj Shri Birbhadra Sinha of Durgapur
- 3 Sardar K M Panikkar

(b) *Non-Officials*

- 1 Sir Shri Ram.
- 2 Sir Bernard Pratt
- 3 Mr J C Lancashire
- 4 Mr W A M Walker CBE, M.L.A.,
- 5 Mr W R Watt, CBE,

- 6 Mr C A Innes,
- 7 Mr J C Mahindra,
- 8 Mr Kasturbhai Lalbhai,
- 9 Sir Padamji P. Ginwala,
- 10 Nawab Sir Syed Maratub Ali,
- 11 Mr Hooseinhoy A Lalljee, M L A,
- 12 Mr M A H Isphani,
- 13 The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sobha Singh, O B F,
- 14 Mr G D Naidu,
- 15 Mr B Ramachandra Reddi, C B E,
- 16 Rai Bahadur Rameshwar Prasad Bagin,
- 17 Mr S K Sen.

POLICY COMMITTEE No 3A—ON TRANSPORT

(a) *States' Representatives*

- 1 Dr P S Deshmukh,
- 2 Sir Manubhai Mehta, C S I,
- 3 Sirdar D K Sen, M A, B C L (Oxon), Bai at Law

(b) *Non-Officials*

- 1 Mr R R Bhole, B Sc, LL B,
- 2 Sir Henry Burkiya, Bart,
- 3 Mr Nui Mahomed Chinoy,
- 4 Mr D R Gadgil,
- 5 Dr Nalinaksha Sanyal, M A, Ph D (Lond), M L A (Bengal),
- 6 Mr W W Ladden,
- 7 Mr G C H Kent,
- 8 Sir Biren Mookerjee,
- 9 Mr K Santhanam,
- 10 Malik Sohan Singh,
- 11 Sir Mohammad Yamin Khan, C I E, M L A
- 12 Rai Bahadur Sant Ram,
- 13 The Honourable Sir Byoy Prasad Singh Roy, K C I E M L C,
- 14 The Honourable Mr R H Parker,
- 15 Sir Renwick Haddow,
- 16 Mr M A Master,

POLICY COMMITTEE No 3B—ON POSTS AND AVIATION

(a) *States' Representatives*

- 1 Nawab Khusrul Jung,
- 2 Mir Maqbool Mahomood,
- 3 Mr Kishenpuri

(b) *Non-Officials*

- 1 Mr Kasturbhai Lalbhai,
- 2 Mr J R D Tata,
- 3 Mr A F T Cambridge,
- 4 Abdul Rahman Siddiqi, M L A,
- 5 The Honourable Sir Rahimtoolah Chinoy,
- 6 Mr G L Mehta,
- 7 Mr R C Lawson
- 8 Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon, M L A,
- 9 F/Lt Rup Chand

POLICY COMMITTEE No 3C—PUBLIC WORKS AND ELECTRIC POWER

(a) *States' Representatives*

- 1 Sir Mirza Ismail, K C I E,
- 2 Mr N Madava Rao,
- 3 Sir C P Ramaaswami Aiyar, K C S I K C I E,

(b) *Non-Officials*

- 1 Mr B R Kegal, B E, M I E, MR SanI,
- 2 Mr H W T Hain, C B E,
- 3 Mr Dharamasey Mulraj Khatau,
- 4 Mr N N Iengar,
- 5 Rai Bahadur Sohan Lal,
- 6 Mr D Gladding

POLICY COMMITTEE No 4A—TRADE AND COMMERCE

(a) *States' Representatives*

- 1 Mr Ahmed Mohiddin,
- 2 Pandit Amar Nath Atal,
- 3 Mr Abdul Kadir Mohammad Hossain

(b) *Non-Officials*

- 1 The President of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry,
- 2 Mr G D Birla,
- 3 The President of the Associated Chambers of Commerce of India,
- 4 Mr W K M Langley, CBE,
- 5 Mr B S Dabke, B Com, FR Econ S, FSS, (Lond),
- 6 Sir Abdul Halim Ghaznavi, M L A (Central),
- 7 The Honourable Mr Hossain Imam,
- 8 Mr D L Subbiah,
- 9 Sir Chunilal B Mehta,
- 10 Mr K C Neogy, M L A (Central),
- 11 The Honourable Mr P N Sapr,
- 12 Dr Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad, C I E M L A. (Central),
- 13 Sir Swetachalapati Ramakrishna Ranga Row Bahadur Varu,
- 14 Dr J P Niyogi, M A, Ph D
- 15 Dr John Mathai, B A, B L, B Litt (Oxon), D Sc. (Lond),
- 16 Dr Sir Gokul Chand Narang, M A, Ph D. Bar at-Law,
- 17 Dr A Krishnaswami, M A, Ph D,
- 18 Kumataraja Sir Muthiah Chettiar of Chettinad

POLICY COMMITTEE No 4B—INDUSTRIES

(a) *States' Representatives*

- 1 Sir Mirza Ismail, K C I E,
- 2 Mr Ghulam Mohammed

(b) *Non-Officials*

- 1 Sir George Morton, OBE, MC,
- 2 Sir Dewan Bahadur C S Ratnasabapathi Mudaliar, CBE.
- 3 Sir Shri Ram,
- 4 Mr Bishen Das Basil, MIE, (Ind)
- 5 Sir Padampat Singhania
- 6 Mr Dwaika Basu,
- 7 Sir Frederick James, OBE, M L A,
- 8 Mr G L Mehta
- 9 Dr John Mathai, B A B L, B Litt, D Sc (Lond),
- 10 Mr M A Isahani
- 11 Sir Abdul Halim Ghaznavi, M L A (Central),
- 12 President Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industries
- 13 President Associated Chambers of Commerce Royal Exchange,
- 14 Mr J R D Tata,
- 15 Sir V T Krishnamachariar,
- 16 Sir Padamji Ginwala
- 17 Mr N R Sarkar,
- 18 Mr G D Birla
- 19 Sir Purnhotandas Thakurdas C I E MBE,
- 20 Mr Kasturbhai Talbhai
- 21 Mr Walchand Hirachand,
- 22 Mr A Khedgikar M L A

POLICY COMMITTEE No 4C—SHIPPING

(a) *States' Representatives*

- 1 Sir C P Ramaswami Aiyar KCSI, K C I E,
- 2 Mr S V Mukerji

(b) *Non Officials*

- 1 Mr Walchand Hirachand,
- 2 Mr M A Master,
- 3 Mr W L A Radcliffe,
- 4 Sir Abdul Halim Ghaznavi M L A (Central),
- 5 Mr K C Neogy M L A (Central)
- 6 Khan Bahadur Miran Ghulam Kadir Mohd Shahban JP M L A (Central),
- 7 The Honourable Mr A Z M Rezai Karim,
- 8 Sir R K Shanmukham Chetty K C I E

POLICY COMMITTEE No 5—AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES

(a) *States' Representatives*

- 1 Mr M J Narasimhan
- 2 Sir T Vinayachandrar, KBE,
- 3 Mr K S Srinibhi

(b) *Non Officials*

- 1 The President, Associated Chambers of Commerce,
- 2 The President Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce,
- 3 Sir Swetachalapati Ramakrishna Ranga Row Bahadur Varu,
- 4 The Honourable Mr Hossain Imam,
- 5 Sir Frederick James M L A,

- 6 Sir Chunilal B Mehta,
- 7 Khan Bahadur M A Momin, C I E ,
- 8 Mr F I Rahimtoola, C I E ,
- 9 Mr P N Singh Roy,
- 10 Mr Roger Thomas, C I E , J P ,
- 11 Sirdar Bahadur Sir Datar Singh,
- 12 Dr L C Jain, D Sc (Econ) (Lond),
- 13 Chowdhery Mukhtar Singh,
- 14 Sir Manulal Nanavati,
- 15 Prof J N Mukherji, C B E ,
- 16 Dr Sam Higginbotham,
- 17 Sardar Vivek Singh Maipthia,
- 18 Mr B Ramachandra Reddi, C B E ,
- 19 Sri Rao Bahadur N R Samappa Mudahar, M L C ,
- 20 Sri Rao Bahadur R V Ramasundaram Pillai B A ,
- 21 Dr A Krishnaswami, M A , Ph D ,
- 22 Mr R L Biswas

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: May I ask the Honourable Member with regard to (a) whether it means that the reports will not be available for Members of the Legislature?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshr Dalal: They were not intended to be available to Members of the Legislature, but if the Members of the Legislature desire it, I would have no objection to laying them on the table of the House

Mr. Lalchand Navalsrai: Copies could be placed in the Library

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Are there any committees or sub-committees to plan for livestock improvement in this country, for agriculture and also for forests?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshr Dalal: Yes, Sir

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Have any steps been taken by Government to see that people actually engaged in raising and looking after livestock and engaged in agriculture, fisheries and cottage industries have been taken into consideration?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshr Dalal: They will have adequate representation on the Committee

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Are Government satisfied with the amount of representation they have given and the kind of representatives they have selected so far?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshr Dalal: Yes, Sir

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) Next question

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN CENTRAL AND PROVINCIAL PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENTS

282. *Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: Will the Honourable Member for Planning and Development please state the relationship between his Department and similar Departments that exist in the Provinces?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshr Dalal: I invite the Honourable Member's attention to paragraph II of Part I of the Second Report on Reconstruction Planning

The Departments in the Provinces prepare their own plans for subjects within their responsibilities under the general guidance of the Centre. The plans will then be co-ordinated by the Centre subject to the agreement of the Provinces

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is there any committee to co-ordinate the efforts of the Central Government and the Provincial Governments in this matter of planning?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshr Dalal: No, Sir

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it not necessary to establish a Co-ordination committee so that it may be possible for the Honourable Member to know what the Provinces are doing and for Provinces to know what the Centre is doing and also to co-ordinate the plans as they are being developed by the Provinces as well as by the Centre?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshr Dalal: The centre is aware of what the Provinces are doing and the Provinces are aware of what the Centre is doing

Prof. N. G. Ranga: But what efforts are being taken by the Government of India here to see that their plans are being developed in co-ordination with the Provincial Governments and that Provincial Governments are satisfied with the development of the Central Government's plan?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: That is one of the principal objects of this Department.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I ask if Government is aware that some Provincial Governments have already published plans for reconstruction and whether these plans are a part of the co-ordinated whole or that these parts will be co-ordinated afterwards?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: The Government of India is aware that some Provinces have already published the first report of their plans. The co-ordination is to come at a later stage after reports from the various Provinces are received.

Babu Baljnath Bajoria: Has the Government of Bengal started a Planning and Development Department?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: Yes, Sir.

Babu Baljnath Bajoria: Is it working in co-ordination with the Centre?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: We have not yet received any report from the Government of Bengal.

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN CENTRAL AND PROVINCIAL PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENTS

283. *Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: Will the Honourable Member for Planning and Development please state.

(a) whether planning and development activities for Central Government and the Provincial Governments have been demarcated, and

(b) whether Provinces and Indian States as such are represented in the Committees functioning under his Department?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: (a) The Provinces will prepare plans for subjects within their own responsibility but in order to secure a balanced economic development of the whole country the Centre will co-ordinate the plans. The matter is one of agreement and mutual adjustment with Provinces.

(b) Provinces as such have been represented on the Policy Committees, certain State representatives have been nominated to each of these Committees by H. E. the Crown Representative to speak not only for their own States but also for other States when so required by them.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: May I ask the Honourable Member if he is aware that Sir Shanmukham Chetty, a member of the General Policy Committee stated at a meeting of the Reconstruction Committee, Madras, that he was not aware of the limits of interference by the Centre in matters Provincial, since they were not properly demarcated and therefore he was not in a position to enlighten the Madras Reconstruction Committee?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: I am not aware of what Sir Shanmukham Chetty said.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: Will the Honourable Member kindly make enquiries?

Mr. Kooseimbhoy A. Laljee: May I know from the Honourable Member whether the Indian States will place before the Central Government their schemes of planning?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: Many of the major Indian States are preparing their schemes of planning.

Mr. Kooseimbhoy A. Laljee: Will they place them before the Central Government. We are taking them into confidence with regard to our plans and I want to know whether they will return the courtesy.

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: I cannot speak on behalf of the Indian States but as far as I am aware the States are very keen on co-operating with the Centre in the matter of industrial development.

Babu Baljnath Bajoria: May I know whether the Honourable Member is aware that the officer placed in charge of Planning and Development in Bengal has taken six months' leave?

POSITION OF INSURED PROPERTY

284. *Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state the position of the property—movable and immovable—insured in different companies?

(b) Is it a fact that those companies are making an attempt to absolve themselves from the payment of the damages of insured property?

(c) Was the Government approached on this question, and what was its decision?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a), (b) and (c) If, as I presume, the Honourable Member is referring to property covered by insurance, which was damaged in the Bombay explosions, I would invite his attention to the Government of India Press Communique, dated the 30th May, 1944, outlining the scheme of compensation to the victims of the Bombay explosion and to Section 14 of the Bombay Explosion (Compensation) Ordinance, 1944, which is published in the Gazette of India Extraordinary, dated the 1st July, 1944.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I know from the Honourable Member whether people whose properties were insured have already received payment from Government and from the insurance companies?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Quite a number of claims have already been settled that is my information.

Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: Has any compensation been paid so far or will it be paid after the war?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Compensation is to be paid before the end of the war. It is being paid as and when claims are examined and settled.

RADIO LICENCES AND RADIOS IMPORTED UNDER LEND-LEASE.

285. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state the total number of radio licences in India at the last available date?

(b) How many radios have been imported into India under the Lend-Lease from the United States of America?

(c) How many of them have been sold?

(d) Is it a fact that these radios have come under the Lend-Lease, i.e. free of cost to the United Kingdom, but that full value is realised in India for them and the money credited to the Government of the United Kingdom?

(e) At various stations in India what percentage of the total time that the radio is operating is devoted to war news, war reviews, relays, discourses, relating to war from other countries, and generally to topics connected with the war?

(f) What is the increase in the expenditure of the All-India Radio per year since the beginning of the war?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: (a) The number of radio receiver licences in British India on 30th September, 1944 was 1,89,945

(b) 40,917

(c) 27,701 sets have been sold through commercial channels

(d) All the sets were sent originally on Lease-Lend but Lease-Lend was withdrawn in regard to all sets sold to the trade. These were on cash reimbursable basis i.e. dollars have to be paid to the U.S.A. Government for 27,701 sets. The reference to the Government of U.K. does not arise. It is the standing practice to realise the rupee cost of all articles received on Lease-Lend which are issued to the Public or to a Commercial Department of Government.

(e) The required information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

(f) A statement giving the required information is laid on the table of the House.

Statement showing the increase in expenditure of All-India Radio since the beginning of the war.

Year	Expenditure	Increase over previous year
	Rs	Rs
1939-40	25,46,700	-
1940-41	30,24,000	4,77,300
1941-42	33,40,900	3,16,900
1942-43	38,55,800	5,14,900
1943-44 (Revised Estimates)	47,86,000	9,30,200

† Actuals not yet available

Mr. Mann Subedar: After the rupee part is realised from the Departments, who receive these goods, how is the rupee part converted into dollars for payment to the United States of America?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: That is through the Reserve Bank of India.

Mr. Mann Subedar: From what source were the private bills paid to India for goods sold by us to the U S A? I was told that all these dollars go to the pool. I want to know whether Indian requirements for these payments are made out of the pool?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: They are made out of the pool.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: What profits are fixed on these radios when they are sold by private agencies?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: That is fixed by the Industries and Civil Supplies Department under the provisions of the Anti-Profiteering and Anti-Hoarding Ordinance.

EQUIPMENT IMPORTED FOR THE ALL-INDIA RADIO

286. *Mr. Mann Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state what additional equipment has been imported for the All-India Radio since the beginning of the war?

(b) From which country was it imported, and what was the price paid?

(c) In how many languages is the All-India Radio now operating?

(d) How many of them are non-Indian and foreign languages, and which are they?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: (a) and (b) A statement giving the required information is laid on the table of the House.

(c) and (d) I would invite the attention of the Honourable Member to the "Indian Listener", copies of which are available in the Library of the Legislature.

Statement showing the equipment imported for All-India Radio since the beginning of the war, the country from which imported and the cost of the equipment.

Detail of the equipment	Country from which imported	Cost of the equipment (roundly)
Transmitter equipment		Rs.
1 100 k w shortwave	United Kingdom	9,82,000
1 10 k w medium-wave	U S A	1,64,000
1 5 k w " "	United Kingdom	1,19,000
Studio equipment		
4 sets	U. S. A.	3,50,000
Miscellaneous spare parts for various stations of All-India Radio	U. S. A	1,45,000

(including stores worth Rs 85,000 imported under Lease/Lend terms).

Mr. Mann Subedar: With regard to part (d), viz., broadcasting in foreign languages, may I know whether this is considered as part of the war effort?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: Yes, Sir.

Mr. Mann Subedar: May I know, in that case, whether India gets any credit from the Allied Nations with regard to the money spent in this manner?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: India is in the war and it is part of its war effort.

EMPIRE DOLLAR POOL

287. *Mr. K. S. Gupta: (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state when the Empire Dollar Pool was formed, and under whose auspices?

(b) If it has been formed, what is the constitution? Are the Government of India consulted before its formation? If not, why not?

(c) Are the Government of India in a position to give authentic information regarding the credits in the Empire Dollar Pool and allocation therefrom made to India so far?

(d) Is it a fact that India's dollar credits have been credited to the Empire Dollar Pool?

(e) Why has no information as to the manner in which these dollars have been utilized not been made available in this country? Would the Government of India see to the publication of the information at an early date to allay public suspicion?

(f) Is it not a fact that the suggestion of the Indian Delegation to secure convertability of at least a portion of India's Sterling balances into International currency in the transition period was turned down at the Bretton Woods Conference?

(g) Do the Government of India realize even now the urgent need of independent dollar resources of her own for her post-war development?

(h) Do the Government of India propose to secure the dissolution of the Empire Dollar Pool and allocation of dollars to India on a *pro rata* basis?

(i) What percentage is now being credited in dollars in favour of this country, and how much dollar balances have accumulated?

(j) Are the Government of India prepared to make arrangements for all the dollars accruing to India's credit out of her favourable trade balances or out of the expenses and purchases of the American Army in India which should forthwith be put in a separate account and made available to this country till the allocations from the Empire Dollar Pool are complete?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) The arrangement to pool foreign exchange resources of countries of the British Empire in the event of war was made in London in 1939 on a suggestion by H M G and the Bank of England.

(b) Under the pooling arrangement H M G was given control of all foreign exchange resources of the sterling area. Members agreed to introduce parallel systems of exchange control and in return they were entitled to obtain their foreign exchange requirements from the Bank of England. The answer to the 2nd part of the question is in the affirmative.

(c) No

(d) Yes

(e) I have already explained previously and also stated recently in reply to Mr. Neogy's question No. 27 of 3rd November, 1944, that the dollars in the Common Empire Pool are used for meeting the essential import requirements of the sterling area countries. Further information cannot be given without detriment to the public interest.

(f) Yes

(g) I would invite the attention of the Honourable Member to para. 52 of my Budget speech for 1944-45.

(h) and (j) The prosecution of the Common war effort renders necessary the continuance of the present arrangements.

(i) The Honourable Member presumably refers to the arrangement mentioned in para. 52 of my Budget speech. I regret I am not in a position to give any further information.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I know from the Honourable Member whether the essential requirements for which this dollar pool is used as the Honourable Member said, relates not only to munitions and war materials but also to the requirements of the civilian population of the sterling areas?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: They refer largely to the first item but they also include the latter categories, because unless the civilian population can be maintained in a satisfactory manner munitions production, etc., cannot go on.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I ask why the dollar requirements of the civilian population of India are being stunted and why dollar exchange is not given to private parties when they ask for it, even in a reasonable measure?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: This is a question as to what is regarded as reasonable. Some of the objects which my Honourable friend mentioned the other day are not objects which can be given a high priority in war time but the requirements of the civilian population of India are entitled to consideration in this matter just as much as the requirements of other civil populations.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Will the Honourable Member promise to consider that there are numerous factories, industrialists and those who are producing essential goods in this country who are in need of some essential parts, some lubricants, replacements or equipment? Will my Honourable friend promise to look into these numerous applications which have been rejected?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: If these requirements are for purposes which are essential at the present time I consider that they should be given reasonable priority but it depends entirely on the competing claims.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Is the Honourable Member aware that there is an apprehension in business quarters that Government is trying to divert the demand for goods from the U.S.A. into the United Kingdom and that they are discouraging people from taking their essential requirements from the U.S.A. and one of the methods of such discouragement is the refusal to give dollar exchange?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: That is not the correct way of stating the position. The fact of the matter is that the supplies of dollars are inadequate for the demands which might be placed on the U.S.A. and the only cure for that situation is to ration the supply of dollars and to divert demands which cannot be satisfied from America to other sources of supply.

Mr. Manu Subedar: That might be the case with the United Kingdom but is it not a fact that India, if her own share of export was considered, has got more than enough, and that in spite of the fact that we export so much to the U.S.A. we are not given the benefit of these dollars?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: The developments of the war may throw up an extra accretion of dollars in one or other part of the empire at different times.

Mr. Manu Subedar: We want our own dollars.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: They may be your own dollars, but the position is they arise partly from the fact, for instance, that the whole of the productive population of Britain is engaged on producing munitions of war and cannot be engaged on activities which would result in the earning of dollars; but those munitions of war are also used on India's behalf. The only way in which all these factors can be taken into account is by treating the whole as one unit. It is true that at the present time there is on balance an accretion of dollars to India, but it would not be possible to carry on the war if factors of that kind were to be given predominating influence.

Mr. T. S. Avinashlingam Chettiar: With reference to part (f) of the question, the Honourable Member referred us to his last Budget speech. May I know how he could anticipate the decisions of the Bretton Woods Conference which was held later, in his Budget speech which was given much earlier?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: The reply to part (f) was "Yes".

Mr. T. S. Avinashlingam Chettiar: With reference to part (i) of the question, the Honourable Member promised in his Budget speech that they will set apart a dollar pool for India. May I know if it is coming about?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: As I stated the other day, that is already being carried out.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) Next question

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will any steps be taken to see at least before the next Budget is introduced, that some action will be taken

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) Next question

REPRESENTATION re INDO-BRITISH FINANCIAL SETTLEMENT

288. *Mr. K. S. Gupta: (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state whether there is any representation or communication to the Government of India by the Indian Chamber of Commerce on the Indo-British Financial Settlement regarding allocation of military defence expenditure as between His Majesty's Government and India?

(b) Is it not a fact that the following observation has been made by the Indian Chamber of Commerce "When the poverty of the people, their low standard of living and their extremely limited general taxable capacity are taken into account India has been made to pay towards the cost of war out of all proportion to her ability and her actual sacrifices have to be calculated in terms of security, privation and suffering of the people"?

(c) What have the Government of India to say about the facts stated therein?

(d) Are the Government of India aware that the Indian public has all along been dissatisfied with the Indo-British Financial Settlement, and that they express their strong sense of resentment at the efforts that are still continued to be made by responsible people in the United Kingdom to minimise India's financial contribution to the war and to urge enhancement of the burden imposed upon her?

(e) What have the Government of India done to resist the attempts that are being made to increase the incidence of defence expenditure on India?

(f) Is it not desirable to have a rigid distinction between a measure for local defence of India and one for imperial defence?

(g) Is it not a fact that India has made a substantial contribution to the common war effort through reciprocal aid under lease-lend to the United States of America?

(h) What is the present position of India with regard to lease-lend question?

(i) Is there any financial benefit received by India as a result of lease-lend supplies from the United States of America? If so, what is the total benefit derived by India in the years 1942 and 1943 or as a whole up-to-date?

(j) Do Government propose to see that India should be made responsible only for such portion of the American expenditure in India as is directly incurred for India's legitimate defence, and that it should not exceed the value of such lease-lend aid as is actually received by India for her own defence purposes?

(k) Are the Government of India prepared to make an authoritative declaration on this subject? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) and (b) Yes

(c) The observation stated a point of view

(d) The Government of India are aware that a section of the public has given expression to the views mentioned

(e) I would refer the Honourable Member to my last Budget speech

(f) I would refer the Honourable Member to my Budget speeches and the Reports of the Public Accounts Committee for an account of the manner in which measures for the local defence of India are determined

(g) Yes

(h) and (i) The position is indicated in my last Budget speech

(j) and (k) The scope of Reciprocal Aid given by the Government of India was indicated in my last Budget speech. Reciprocal Aid to the United States Government has not so far exceeded the value of Lease-Lend benefits received by India for her own purposes. Should this happen the policy of the Government of India would have to be again considered

Mr. Manu Subedar: Is it a fact that the Government of India have departed from the ceiling obligation of India in the matter of military expenditure, both in the matter of army and navy and aircraft, and that India is now burdened with a much larger share of the costs?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: It is not a fact that the Government of India have so departed there was no ceiling arrangement.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Under the Chatfield scheme there was a ceiling arrangement.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I am afraid I do not understand to what the Honourable Member is referring. The Government of India have not departed from the principles of the settlement.

PAUCITY OF MUSLIM OFFICERS IN THE OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY ACCOUNTANT GENERAL, POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS, DELHI

†289. ***Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon:** (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state whether it is a fact that there is no Muslim officer in the Office of the Deputy Accountant General of Posts and Telegraphs, Delhi?

(b) Is it a fact that four Subordinate Accounts Service passed clerks were brought to work in the above office from Madras?

(c) Do Government propose to replace these Madrasis by Muslim officers?

(d) Are Government servants of the above office provided with free quarters outside Delhi and Simla?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) and (b) The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the replies given by me on the 3rd November, 1944, to part (c) of his starred question No. 80 and part (b) of his starred question No. 81.

(c) No. The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the answer given by me to part (d) of his starred question No. 80 on the 3rd November, 1944.

(d) As no portion of the office of the Deputy Accountant General, Posts and Telegraphs, Delhi, is located outside Delhi this question does not arise.

REST AND RECREATION AND WAR ALLOWANCES

†290. ***Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon:** (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state if it is a fact that the Government of India had sanctioned the grant of travelling allowance up to a maximum of Rs. 300 to Government servants not enjoying the Dearness Allowance?

(b) Is it a fact that the Government of India have now sanctioned war allowance equal to 10 per cent of pay to officers drawing pay up to Rs. 1,000 with marginal adjustment up to Rs. 1,100?

(c) Will the above travelling allowance also be paid to all the officers now in receipt of the war allowance? If so, do Government propose to extend this concession to the entire non-gazetted clerical staff in Audit and Accounts Offices in India who are also paid 10 per cent war allowance from the 1st July, 1944? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a), (b) and (c) The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the reply given by me to parts (a), (f) and (g) of his starred question No. 176 on 8th November, 1944.

DESIRABILITY OF INCREASING DEARNESS ALLOWANCE FOR STAFF OF AUDIT AND ACCOUNT OFFICES

†291. ***Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon:** (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state if it is a fact that in all Audit and Accounts Offices in India there is more than half temporary staff and that the permanent staff has to discharge more duties and responsibilities on this score?

(b) Do Government propose to afford more generous and immediate relief to the poverty-stricken permanent staff in Audit and Accounts Offices

in the shape of more Dearness Allowance or in revising the existing scales of pay? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) and (b) The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the reply given by me today to parts (c) and (d) of his starred question No 267

REFUSALS OF LEAVE IN AUDIT AND ACCOUNT OFFICES

†292. ***Seth Yusuf Abdoolo Haroon:** Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state if it is a fact that in Audit and Accounts Offices men have to wait long for the grant of leave on average pay for want of a leave reserve?

(b) If the answer to (a) above is in affirmative, what arrangements do Government propose to make for it?

(c) Is it a fact that the scales of pay in Audit and Accounts Offices are most low and inadequate than those in vogue in Imperial and Provincial Secretariats?

(d) If the answer to (c) above is in affirmative, what do Government propose to do in the matter of revising their scales?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) to (d) The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the replies given by me today to part (a) of his starred question No 269 and parts (d) and (e) of his starred question No 271

DETENTION OF MR MADHO SHRIPAD GOKHALE

293. ***Mr. N. M. Joshi:** Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state

(a) whether Mr Madho Shripad Gokhale was arrested on the 26th March, 1944, under the Defence of India Rules under orders of the Government of India,

(b) whether his case has been examined by the Government of India with a view to his release, and, if so, what the result is,

(c) whether Mr Gokhale has been denied interview with his relatives for important personal business,

(d) whether the Government of India was informed by one of his relatives that his insurance policy could not be revived unless a medical certificate from the Oriental Company's doctor could be produced,

(e) whether the Government of India had refused to allow the Insurance Company's doctor to examine Mr Gokhale and, if so, whether the Government of India would be responsible for compensating the Company for the loss which will be caused on account of such a refusal and

(f) whether the Government of India propose to reconsider this question?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) He was detained by order of the Central Provinces Government on the date mentioned and subsequently by the Central Government

(b) to (f) For security reasons certain special restrictions had to be imposed in this case. I myself kept in close touch with it throughout and as soon as I was satisfied that these restrictions could be removed they were removed and Mr Gokhale released

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I thank the Honourable Member for this one act of justice which his Department has promptly done?

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: May I know if this was due to a change in policy towards the detainees and if so will it be followed up towards other detainees?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: No

NAMES OF WEEK DAYS CHANGED BY *Awaz*

294. ***Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Information and Broadcasting be pleased to say whether he knows that the fortnightly *Awaz* edited by his Department has now changed the names of the days of the week to Urdu words, such as "Peer" for "Sunwar", "Jumma Rat" for

†Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner being absent

"Vrispat" and "Haftah" for "Samchar"? If so, why have these names been adopted instead of those commonly in use and are understood by both Hindus and Muhammadans?

(b) Are the words 'Peer' and "Haftah" Urdu or Hindi or Persian words, and have they ever been used for "Sunwar" and "Samchar" by Hindus?

(c) What is the policy of the Information and Broadcasting Department for the selection of words to be used for broadcasting?

(d) Is it a fact that to remove the controversy regarding Urdu and Hindi the Honourable Member sometimes stated on the floor of the House that only Hindustani words which are understood by both Hindus and Muslims, would be used?

(e) Who is the editor of this *Awaz*? What is his other position in the Department? Under whose instructions has he used the aforesaid words?

(f) Do Government propose to change these words to the original words in use or to such words which could be understood equally by both Hindus and Muslims? If not, why not?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: (a) No. These words were always used in the *Awaz* which is an Urdu journal; Hindi equivalents are used in *Sarang* which is a Hindi journal.

(b) For the origin of these words, the Honourable Member should refer to an Etymological dictionary. They are used by many Hindus.

(c) and (d) The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the reply given by me on the 8th November to Mr Govind V Deshmukh's Starred question No. 170.

(e) *Awaz* is edited by Mr Ghulam Abbas, who holds the post of Sub-Editor in the office of the Editor, *Indian Listener*. The office of the *Indian Listener* produces all the three magazines *Indian Listener*, *Awaz* and *Sarang*. The latter part of the question does not arise.

(f) No. This is not necessary in view of the reply to part (a) of the question.

Mr. Lalchand Navalkar: May I know if the Honourable Member has ever heard the word "Peer" used for Monday?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: Yes; it is very extensively used in that part of the country from which I come.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) Next question.

Mr. Lalchand Navalkar: Is it the policy of the Government . . .

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) Next question.

MODIFICATION OF INDO-BRITISH FINANCIAL SETTLEMENT

295. *Mr. Mann Subedar: (a) Does the Honourable the Finance Member propose to give particulars to this House of the agreement regarding the apportionment of Defence expenditure incurred by India between the Government of India and His Majesty's Government?

(b) Has there been any change in this agreement since these terms were given in 1941?

(c) When did the British Government press for its revision?

(d) Did the Government of India at any time put forward a ceiling figure for Defence expenditure to be borne by India and the entire balance to be borne by the United Kingdom?

(e) Was such a representation received by the Government of India from any public body?

(f) Are Government aware that a much larger share than India should bear is being thrown on the Indian revenues and the existing burden of Defence expenditure is beyond the capacity of this country?

(g) What is the total Defence expenditure of India in the year 1943-44?

(h) Is it not a fact that it has exceeded the estimate as given in the Budget speech by the Finance Member?

(i) In addition to these charges being borne by the Indian revenues is it not a fact that enormous amount of materials are purchased at controlled prices

for the Government of the United Kingdom for which the latter does not propose to make immediate or definite and certain payment?

(j) What do Government propose to do for safeguarding India's true interests?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) I would refer the Honourable Member to my Budget speech for 1940-41

(b) No

(c) The Honourable Member's attention is invited to my Budget speech for 1943-44

(d) No

(e) Yes

(f) The answer to this, in so far as it is not a request for an expression of opinion, is in the negative

(g) The revised estimates for 1943-44 provide for a sum of Rs. 300.94 crores to be borne by India as her share of the defence expenditure

(h) Yes

(i) While His Majesty's Government themselves make purchases of certain items in India, certain other items are purchased by the Government of India on account of His Majesty's Government at the best prices that can be secured. For the latter class of purchases His Majesty's Government afford sterling credits to India.

(j) Government are continually doing all in their power to safeguard India's true interests.

Mr. Manu Subedar: What was the share of the United Kingdom? India's share was mentioned as 344 crores, what is the United Kingdom's share of war expenditure incurred in India in the year 1943-44?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I am afraid I have not got that with me, but I must point out that most of the questions are directly answered in the Budget speech in some detail.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I know why Government have departed from the salutary practice and from the point which was represented by so many associations and the public of India that there should be limitation on the cost of the war, which India can bear, and that the whole of the rest should be borne by the United Kingdom?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: That is a large question, but in my opinion it is not possible to place a ceiling in terms of rupees on the amount of any country's war effort.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I know why the Government of India agreed to the expenditure of Rs. 80 crores on aerodromes which nobody is using and nobody will use and which the taxpayers of this country cannot bear?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I am not aware of aerodromes which nobody has used and nobody will use.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Was Rs. 80 crores spent on aerodromes or not?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member is arguing. Next question.

THE UNITED KINGDOM COMMERCIAL CORPORATION

296. ***Mr. Manu Subedar:** Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state whether the U.K.C.C. is a company registered in the United Kingdom, or is it working under a special charter?

(b) Is it a fact that the U.K.C.C. is making very large profits by sale to India and by purchase from India and sale in other markets?

(c) Is it a fact that they have refused to disclose their operations to the Government of India from time to time?

(d) Since when has the U.K.C.C. operated in India and on such operations what attempt has the Finance Department made to recover income-tax on their profits, as in the profit of every one else who is operating in India?

(e) Is not the activity of the U.K.C.C. coming under the Government Trading Taxation Act, 1926?

(f) Why has the Finance Department been slack in the matter of recovering income-tax from the U K C C ?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) The United Kingdom Commercial Corporation is a Company registered in the United Kingdom under the United Kingdom Companies Act, 1929

(b) No. The Government of India understand that this is not true of the Corporation's activities as a whole

(c) No. The transactions of the U K C C are reported to the Government of India every month

(d) The U K C C has been operating in India since 1941. As regards the latter part of the question, the Income-Tax Department have, as in other cases, started assessment proceedings

(e) No

(f) There has been no slackness. Time has had to be allowed for the preparation of detailed figures

Sir Vithal N. Chandavarkar: In view of the nusgivings created in the public mind by the activities of the U K C C, will the Honourable Member secure a copy of the articles of association of the U K C C and lay it on the table of the House?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: That really is a question for my Honourable colleague the Commerce Member

(b) WRITTEN ANSWERS

SALE OF SOUTH AFRICAN GOLD IN INDIA

297. ***Mr. Manu Subedar:** (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state if it is a fact that the Reserve Bank is acting as an agent for the South African Government for the sale of gold in India? If not, on whose behalf is this gold being sold?

(b) With regard to profits made on the sale of gold in this country, what attempt has been made by the Finance Department to recover the income-tax thereon?

(c) Is this not a trading transaction within the scope of the Government Trading Taxation Act, 1926?

(d) What commission is charged by the Reserve Bank on this operation?

(e) Have the Government of India asked for a share of the profits? If not, why not?

(f) In any case, are all profits earned in India liable to tax?

(g) Why are these particular profits allowed to escape?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) The answer to the first part is in the negative. For the 2nd part I would refer the Honourable Member to my reply to question No. 272 asked by Mr. K. S. Gupta today.

(b), (c) and (e), (f) and (g). I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to the reply I gave to Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari's starred question No. 191 on the 8th November 1944.

(d) The information is not available.

ORDINANCE No. 45 OF 1944

298. ***Mr. Manu Subedar:** (a) Is the Honourable the Finance Member aware of great dissatisfaction with regard to Ordinance No. 45 of 1944 to remove doubts as to the validity of certain notices under the Indian Income-tax Act of 1922 and Excess Profits Tax of 1940?

(b) Is he aware that this Ordinance seeks to give retrospective effect?

(c) Is it the intention of the Government to bring a Bill in this House in substitution of this law?

(d) Could it be said that the purpose for which this Ordinance was passed, is a legitimate purpose connected with the war?

(e) Are Government aware that by this Ordinance elementary rights of taxpayers as provided in laws passed by this House, have been wiped out?

(f) What is the period during which this Ordinance will be in operation and what do government propose when that period expires?

(g) Will Government give an assurance that before these provisions expire and if Government want these provisions to continue, they would bring a Bill in this House and not renew the Ordinance?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Baisman: (a) No

(b) I am aware that the Ordinance seeks to validate notices issued before the commencement of the Ordinance.

(c) No. The relevant forms of notices under the Income-tax and Excess Profits Tax Acts have been amended and those that are now being issued are in accordance with the law as lately interpreted by the Bombay High Court. In point of fact therefore the Ordinance is operative only in respect of notices already issued. It is therefore not necessary to enact any fresh legislation.

(d) The ordinance does not purport to be a war measure and, if the Honourable Member intends to suggest that the Ordinance-making power is not exercisable save for a purpose connected with the war, he is mistaken.

(e) No

(f) There is no limit to the period for which the Ordinance is valid. The latter part of the question does not arise.

(g) Does not arise.

AMENDMENT OF DEFENCE OF INDIA RULE 4

299. ***Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** (a) Will the Honourable the Defence Member be pleased to state whether Rule 4 of the Defence of India Rules relating to 'saving' of public servants for acts done in the course of duty has been amended in April, 1944? If so, what is the significance of the amendment and what were the reasons for amending the rule?

(b) Did some cases of misuse of the saving Rule by public servants come to the notice of the Government? If so, will the Honourable Member please give brief particulars of them?

Mr. O. M. Trivedi: (a) Yes. I must leave the Honourable Member to form his own opinion of the effect of the amendment. Its object was to empower the Central Government or an officer specially authorised in this behalf to render the saving inapplicable in relation to a particular order or direction made under the Rules by the Central Government or such officer.

(b) The answer to the first part is in the negative. The latter part does not, therefore, arise.

SALE OF AMERICAN GOLD IN INDIA

300. ***Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari:** Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state

(a) the quantity of gold sold by the United States of America on the Indian market through the Reserve Bank since November, 1943,

(b) whether for some months past the gold sold by the Reserve Bank is entirely of American origin, and

(c) whether the proceeds of the sales of this gold is used for the purpose of meeting the expenses of the Government of the United States of America for its troops in India?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Baisman: (a), (b) and (c). I invite the Honourable Member's attention to the reply given by me to starred question No. 35 asked by Sardar Sant Singh on 8th February 1944.

I am not prepared to add to the information given in that reply.

POLITICAL DETENUS AND CONVICTS

301. ***Mr. Satya Narayan Sinha:** (a) Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state the number of political detenues and convicts in the whole country, province-wise?

(b) Are Government aware that important and influential Congressmen have been released and majority of those who are detained, constitute the rank and file?

(c) If the answer to (b) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state the reason for this inconsistency and incongruity?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) I refer the Honourable Member to my answer to question No 203

(b) Government are aware that important and influential congressmen have been released but are not aware that the majority of those detained constitute the rank and file

(c) Does not arise

ATROCITIES BY SOLDIERS IN CHITTAGONG DISTRICT

302. *Shaikh Rafuddin Ahmad Siddique: (a) Will the War Secretary be pleased to state whether Government are aware of the high-handed atrocities, persecution and "Zulum" by the armed military soldiers, more especially of the Abyssinians and Negroes upon the helpless unarmed and innocent civil people of the district of Chittagong in the shape of house looting, bazar looting, followed by indiscriminate firing, extortion of money from the innocent pedestrians on the highway and abduction of women from the street and the highway?

(b) Are Government also aware that

(i) during the month of August, 1944, at about 3 a.m. the house of one Rama Krishna Mahajan of Uttar Halishahar under police station Daulbe-Moornings, Chittagong, was looted by armed soldiers with guns and bayonets followed by indiscriminate firing. Military bullets were found at the spot and handed over to the Officer Incharge, Daulbe-Moornings police station and the military police along with a list of the properties stolen away by the soldiers,

(ii) on the 9th October, 1944, at about 1 a.m. the house of one Abdul Rahman Mistry of the Daulbe-Moornings police station was looted by about 24 armed soldiers followed by indiscriminate gun fires. Officer Incharge, Daulbe-Moornings police station and the military police were immediately called on to the spot. Cash and ornaments worth about Rs 25,000 were taken away. Bullets, both used and unused were found and made over to the police together with a list of properties, and

(iii) on the 10th October, 1944, in the evening Pahartali Bazar was looted with terrible firing. The number of the car by which the soldiers made their escape good was given to the Officer Incharge, Daulbe-Moornings police station?

(c) Is it a fact that stray cases of similar offences and others are numberless?

(d) What steps, if any, were taken by Government to bring these offenders to book, and what steps do Government propose to take in the matter to stop a recurrence of similar offences against public properties and their safety and for civil peace and order of the place?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: (a) to (d) Certain incidents have come to my notice, but I am making further inquiries and will lay the information on the table in due course

LEND LEASE AGREEMENT WITH CANADA

303. *Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi: Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state

(a) whether the Government of India have agreed to enter into a Lend Lease Agreement with Canada regarding the supply of rolling stock by Canada to India? If so, will he please give information regarding the nature of the Agreement,

(b) Can he assure the House that this Agreement will in no way prejudicially affect the establishment of a locomotive manufacturing industry in this country?

(c) Will the Honourable Member also assure the House that the Government of India will not in future enter into any important agreement without placing it for approval before the Central Legislature?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) and (b) The Government of India have agreed to enter into a Mutual Aid Agreement with Canada which, it is believed, has by now been actually signed. I am seeking confirmation of this and will on receiving confirmation lay a copy of the Agreement on the table. Capital goods such as locomotives and wagons will not be provided under the Agreement and the position in respect of them will therefore not be affected by the Agreement.

(c) The Government of India will deal with each case on its merits.

UNIFIED SCALE OF PAY FOR MINISTERIAL STAFF

304. *Mr. Muhammad Ashar Ali: Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state.

(a) if it is a fact that unified scales have been introduced by the Central Government for their ministerial staff,

(b) if it is a fact that the Auditor General of India has prescribed an examination for promotion to the Assistant's Grade (Rs 100—10—200) in the Accounts and Audit offices under his control,

(c) if it is a fact that the said Auditor General has prescribed two papers on (i) Essay, and (ii) departmental rules,

(d) if it is a fact that in Accounts and Audit offices other than Posts and Telegraphs Accounts and Audit offices only one paper on departmental rules was set consisting of about 20 to 25 questions covering rules relating to all sections of the office and each candidate was required to answer any five of them,

(e) if it is a fact that in the Posts and Telegraphs Accounts and Audit offices instead of one paper covering the whole field, separate papers were set for Fundamental and Supplementary Rules, Civil Service Regulations, Postal Accounts, Savings Banks, Money Orders, General Provident Fund, Cash Certificates, etc., etc., and each candidate was required to appear in one of them and to answer five questions in the subject selected,

(f) if it is a fact that in Essay writing the choice was given amongst two subjects only and in other papers the candidate was required to answer five questions out of six in Fundamental and Supplementary Rules, etc.,

(g) if it is a fact that a similar examination is also prescribed for promotion in other subordinate or attached offices,

(h) if the replies to parts (a) to (f) or any of them be in the affirmative, the reasons for the differential treatment amongst the staff in the Audit and Accounts Departments under the Auditor General, and

(i) if the replies to parts (a) to (g) or any of them be in the negative, what the true fact is?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a), (c), (d), (e) and (f) Yes

(b) The departmental test for promotion to certain posts in Grade 'A' of the unified scale in the Audit Department was prescribed by Government

(g) No, there are 'no 'A' grade posts in other Subordinate offices. In attached offices Assistants, whose posts correspond to grade A of the unified scale, have been allowed to elect the unified scale while it exists if they so desire

(h) The syllabus of the second paper has been prescribed to meet the special requirements of each branch of the Audit Department. It was found from personal enquiries made by the Accountant-General, Posts and Telegraphs that the syllabus for the Posts and Telegraphs Branch was generally acceptable to the candidates in that Branch

(i) My replies to (b) and (g) answer this question

BOATS CONFISCATED IN BENGAL AND OTHER COASTAL AREAS

305 *Mr. K. S. Gupta: (a) Will the Honourable the Defence Member please state the total number of boats confiscated in Bengal and other coastal areas?

(b) How many of them were destroyed

(c) Was there any compensation paid to the owners of the confiscated boats?

(d) How many of the owners were compensated and what is the total amount paid towards compensation? What is the average payment made to each owner?

(e) How many of these boats were wasted due to negligence?

(f) Are the Government of India aware of the fact that thousands of maunds of wood of dismantled boats had been sold to mills and factories for use as fuel?

(g) What is the amount realized by such sale?

(h) Are the Government of India aware of the untold sufferings of fishermen whose main occupation was fish catching and sale of fish by such wanton confiscation and dismantlement?

(i) Is it not a fact that several people lost their lives when the coastal areas were recently flooded for want of adequate supply of boats to escape?

(j) What is the number, if any, under construction or repair to be returned to the owners from whom they were confiscated?

(k) When are they to be returned?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: (a) I would invite the attention of the Honourable Member to the answer given to part (a) of Starred question No 186 on the 7th November 1944

(b), (c) and (d) I would invite the attention of the Honourable Member to the answer given to parts (c) and (d) of Starred question No 733 on the 31st March 1944

(e) I have no information on this point, but will call for a report from the Bengal Government, asking them to give such information as is readily available

(f) and (g) Boats which could not be rendered serviceable after repairs, have been sold as timber, but I have no information as to the number of such boats or the weight of timber so sold, I have also no information regarding the amount realised by such sale I am asking the Bengal Government to give such information as is readily available

(h) I would invite the attention of the Honourable Member to the answer given to part (e) of Starred question No 733 on the 31st March 1944

(i) I have received no information from the Provincial Government, but I am calling for a report

(j) and (k) I would invite the attention of the Honourable Member to the answer given to part (e) of Starred question No 136 on the 7th November 1944

REORGANISATION OF INCOME-TAX SERVICES

306. *Mr. K. C. Neogy: (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state whether any decision has been arrived at recently to reconstitute and classify the existing Income-tax Services? If so, will the Honourable Member be pleased to indicate the principal features of such reorganisation?

(b) What are the reasons for the aforesaid decision? What will be its financial effect, and how will the position of the present incumbents in the different classes of officers concerned be affected?

(c) Is it a fact that the reorganisation is likely to prejudice a number of officers in the Bengal Circle who have been working as "Examiners", or having been recruited as Examiners initially or promoted to the rank of Examiners have been officiating as Income-tax Officers? If so, in what manner are they likely to be prejudiced, and what is the number of officers of the two above categories, respectively, who are thus likely to be prejudiced?

(d) In what circumstances and when was the appointment of "Examiners" decided upon? What are the duties with which they were entrusted?

(e) Has there been any change in the policy of the Government in regard to the continuance of "Examiners"? If so, what is the nature of such change and to what circumstances has it been due?

(f) What is the number of Examiners of the two categories mentioned in (c) above, who have put in a service for (i) five years, (ii) eight years, and (iii) ten years and above? Is there any proposal under the consideration of Government to absorb the above officers in the permanent cadre under the Reorganisation Scheme?

(g) Is it a fact that several new officers are being posted to the Bengal Service from outside the Province? If so, what are the reasons for this step? What appointments did they hold prior to these postings in Bengal, and what will be their duties hereafter? Will these new appointments affect in any manner the possibility of any of the two categories of Examiners mentioned in (c) being absorbed into the permanent cadre under the Reorganisation Scheme?

(h) Is it a fact that a number of senior permanent officers at present holding responsible charges and drawing a monthly pay of Rs 500 and above each, are likely to be treated as "supernumerary" under the Reorganisation Scheme? If so, what will be the reasons for such treatment, and on what considerations will the selection of such "supernumerary" officers depend? Has any decision been arrived at in regard to the selection of such "supernumerary" officers? What will the probable number be of such officers and what proportion do they constitute of the total number of existing officers drawing a monthly pay of Rs 500 and above?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) Yes. The Honourable Member's attention is invited to the press communique issued by the Central Board of Revenue, a copy of which I place on the table of the House. This indicates the principal features of the reorganisation.

(b) As stated in the press communique, the reorganisation has been undertaken with a view to improving the efficiency of the administration of Income-tax and the morale of the personnel. The financial effect of the reorganisation cannot yet be ascertained with any accuracy, but when the reorganisation is complete, the extra expenditure involved will be of the order of Rs 1,50,000, annually, on an average cost basis. No incumbent of any class of post will be adversely affected in regard to his substantive rights.

(c), (d), (f) and (g) The detailed information sought is not readily available but I am making enquiries and replies will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

(e) No decision has yet been taken to change the policy in this behalf.

(h) The answer to the first part is in the negative. The rest of the question does not arise.

NOT TO BE BROADCAST OR PUBLISHED BEFORE SEPTEMBER, 30, 1944

Press Communique

Reorganisation of Income-tax Services

In recent years income tax has become the most important source of revenue, and its administration has become increasingly difficult. With a view to improving the efficiency of administration and the morale of the personnel, the Government of India have decided to re-organise the Income-tax Services.

Till now, the backbone of the Service, namely, the Income-tax Officer, was borne on the Class II Service of the Central Government and recruitment to this grade was almost entirely by promotion from subordinate executive grades. Hereafter, nearly 50 per cent of the Income-tax Officers will be borne on the Class I Services of the Government of India. These Class I officers, who will be divided into two grades and who will be transferable all over British India, will be recruited on the results of an annual competitive examination conducted by the Federal Public Service Commission on the same lines as for the Indian Audit and Accounts Service.

Recruitment to the Class I Service, except for 20 per cent reserved for promotion from the lower grades, will initially be into grade II from which promotions will be made by selection to grade I, strictly on the basis of merit in consultation with the Federal Public Service Commission. The remaining posts of Income-tax Officers will be classified as grade III and will as heretofore be borne on the Class II Service of the Central Government. Promotions to posts of Assistant Commissioner and Commissioner, except where they are reserved for officers in the "Pool cadre", will again be made by selection from grade I Income-tax Officers.

The Federal Public Service Commission have agreed to select the first ten candidates for the re-organised Income-tax Service on the results of the examination they will be holding in October 1944.

CENTRAL BOARD OF REVENUE;
Simla, September 20, 1944

REORGANIZATION OF INCOME-TAX SERVICES

307. Mr. K. O. Neogy: (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state whether the proposed reorganisation scheme of the Income-tax Services contemplates recruitment of some of the officers through any All-India entrance examination? If so, what are the reasons for departing from the present practice in view, particularly, of the opinion expressed in the Income-tax Enquiry Report, 1938, against the advisability of such recruitment?

(b) Is it proposed to make the aforesaid recruitment on the result of the All-India examination that is now held for the recruitment of officers of the Indian Audit and Accounts Services, etc? If so, how do the scales of pay admissible to the officers of the various services now recruited as a result of the said examination, respectively, compare with the rates of pay proposed for those officers of the Income-tax Department who are to be recruited from the same source?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) Yes It is Government's experience that the present practice does not produce a sufficient number of officers of the requisite caliber. I do not find that the Income-tax Enquiry committee disapproved of this form of recruitment.

(b) The answer to the first part is in the affirmative. In answer to the second part I place a statement on the table of the House

<i>Class I</i>	
Indian Audit and Accounts Service	Rs 250 } 1st year Rs 275 } 2nd year } of probation Time scale Rs 300—25—600—35—950.
Military Accounts Service	Rs 250 } 1st year Rs 275 } 2nd year } of probation Time scale Rs 300—25—600—35—950
Indian Railway Accounts Service	Rs 250 } 1st year Rs 275 } 2nd year } of probation Time scale — Rs 300—25—400 Rs 450 in the 7th year Rs 600 in the 10th year
Transportation (Traffic) and Commercial Departments of the Superior Revenue Establishment of State Railways	District Officers— Grade III Rs 750 Grade II Rs 850 Grade I Rs 950
	Rs 250 } 1st year Rs 275 } 2nd year } of probation Time scale— Rs 300—25—400 Rs 450 in the 7th year Rs 600 in the 10th year
	District Officers— Grade III Rs 750 Grade II Rs 850 Grade I Rs 950
	Rs 250 } 1st year Rs 275 } 2nd year } of probation Time scale Rs 300—25—600—35—950—50—1,050
<i>Class II</i>	
Postal Superintendents	Rs 200 } 1st year Rs 220 } 2nd year } of probation Time scale Rs 240—20—480—15—600.

The scales of pay sanctioned for the Class I Income-tax Officers are —
Rs 250—275 (Prob)—300—25—750 for Grade II, and
Rs 400—25—600—35—950 for Grade I.

SPECIAL PERMISSION FOR JOINING COLLEGES OR SCHOOLS FOR STUDENTS CONVICTED OR DETAINED

308. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: (a) Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state if it is a fact that in certain Provinces students who had been convicted or detained in connection with the political unrest prevailing since 1942 August have been told that special previous permission should be obtained from the Director of Public Instruction before they are entitled to join their College or High School studies? If so, in what Provinces, and why is such a condition prescribed?

(b) How many students have applied for such special permission, and to how many were they granted?

(c) Is it a fact that this condition is imposed in pursuance of Defence of India Rules and under the instructions of the Government of India?

(d) Will the Government be pleased to advise or instruct the concerned Provincial Governments to waive this condition?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: The matter is one that lies within the discretion of the Provincial Governments concerned. The Government of India have no information nor have they issued any instructions on the subject.

STUDENTS CONVICTED OR DETAINED

309. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: (a) Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state how many students were convicted and detained since August, 1942?

(b) How many are still in jails as convicts and as detenus or in both categories?

(c) Have Government taken any special steps to cater to their educational needs, i.e., by providing special libraries or allowing them to prepare and appear for examinations?

(d) If the answer to (c) is in the affirmative, in what Provinces and in what way were any such special facilities provided?

(e) Are Government prepared to consider the advisability of releasing the students who are still in jails to enable them to resume their studies?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) and (b) Government have no separate statistics with regard to students and the work involved in collecting them would be incommensurate with the value of the results.

(c) and (d) Provincial practice varies and can be ascertained from the different Security Prisoners Rules and Jail Manuals which are in the library of the House. I imagine that in all Provinces students who have been detained or convicted are allowed educational books and in one (Bengal) Province at least I know that security prisoners are allowed to take certain examinations.

(e) No student is detained under the orders of the Government of India. No doubt then youth is one of the considerations that would weigh with Provincial Governments in considering the release of students detained by them.

DETENTION OF CONGRESS MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH WEST FRONTIER PROVINCE

310. *Mr. Abdul Qayyum: Will the Honourable the Home Member please state

(a) who ordered the arrest and detention of the five Congress Members of the Legislative Assembly in the North West Frontier Province,

(b) whether the Central or the Provincial Government is responsible for the detention without trial of these five Congress Members of the Legislative Assembly, and

(c) if the Centre, then in what respects the case of these five Members of the Legislative Assembly differs from that of the five other Members of the Legislative Assembly who were recently released?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) and (b) The Central Government took no action in the matter and accepts no responsibility.

(c) Does not arise.

RESTRICTIONS ON INTERVIEWS WITH DETAINED MEMBERS OF THE CONGRESS WORKING COMMITTEE

311. *Mr. Abdul Qayyum: Will the Honourable the Home Member please state

(a) whether any restrictions have been placed on interviews between Members of the Congress Working Committee in detention and their relatives, if so, the nature of the restrictions,

(b) whether any such members have refused to interview their relatives, if so, the reasons for such refusal, and

(c) whether his attention has been invited to the news under the caption "Congress Leaders refuse to see relatives", published in the *Hindustan Times Evening News*, page 4, column 1, dated the 30th October, 1944, if so, why

Pandit Govind Vallabh Pant's children were not allowed to converse with their father in their own mother tongue?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) I would invite attention to the answer given to part (a) of Sardar Mangal Singh's Starred question No. 199 on the 8th November.

(b) I gather from a letter recently sent by Maulana Abul Kalam Azad to the Camp Superintendent that he and his colleagues are not prepared to take advantage of the facility now offered on the ground that they have been denied interviews for so long.

(c) Yes. The news item about Pt. Govind Vallabh Pant's children is unfounded. No interview by them was either sought or refused.

DETENTION OF KHAN ABDUL GHAFFAR KHAN

312. *Mr. Abdul Qayyum: Will the Honourable the Home Member please state

(a) whether Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan was arrested and is being detained under orders of the Central Government or the Provincial Government of the North West Frontier Province, and

(b) if under the orders of the Central Government, whether he will please supply the latest information about the state of his health?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) No such order was issued by the Central Government.

(b) Does not arise.

DESIRABILITY OF RELAXING RESTRICTIONS ON REMITTANCES TO BRITISH SUBJECTS AND OTHERS IN FRANCE

313. *Sir F. E. James: Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state

(a) if, in view of the formal recognition by the United Nations of the Committee of National Liberation as the provincial Government of France and the transfer to that Government of the administration of the greater part of France, the present restrictions on remittances, from India to British subjects and others in France will be relaxed, and

(b) whether France will be included in the sterling area for purposes of exchange, etc., in the near future?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) and (b) The Government of India will follow the same policy as the United Kingdom in the matters referred to. Pending receipt of full information of what H. M. G. propose to do in this connection I regret that I am not at present in a position to answer these questions.

HOUSE RENT AND CONVEYANCE ALLOWANCES FOR GOVERNMENT SERVANTS DEBARRED FROM GETTING GOVERNMENT QUARTERS IN DELHI

314. *Mr. Muhammad Ashar Ali: Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state

(a) if it is a fact that those Government Servants who have been debarred from getting Government accommodation in Delhi for unauthorized subletting are not allowed to draw House Rent and Conveyance Allowances recently sanctioned; if so, whether the fact that they cannot get Government accommodation for three long years is not enough punishment, and

(b) if it is a fact that those Government Servants who sublet their quarters but were not involved in profiteering, have also been debarred from getting House Rent and Conveyance Allowances, if so, whether the Honourable Member now propose to amend the orders, in view of the great hardship to those Government Servants who did not gain by subletting their quarters, to enable them to draw the House Rent and Conveyance Allowances with effect from the 1st July, 1944, if not why not?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) The reply to the first part of the question is that such Government servants were previously not permitted to draw these allowances, these orders have, however, since been withdrawn. The second part of the question does not, therefore, arise.

(b) Does not arise.

INVITATION TO THE PRESS ASSOCIATION FOR APPOINTING TOURING PARTIES

315. *Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: Will the Honourable Member for Information and Broadcasting please state:

(a) if his attention has been invited to a Resolution adopted in a meeting held at Lahore on the 28th October, 1944, of the Standing Committee of the All-India Newspaper Editors' Conference reading as under —

"Invitation by the Government of India to the Press Association to appoint parties for visits to various places should be properly addressed to the All-India Newspaper Editors' Conference, if the object of the invitation was to secure press co-operation"

and if his attention has not been invited to the said Resolution, the reasons therefor,

(b) if it is a fact that the Press Association to whom invitation by the Central Government was sent for appointment of parties to visit various places was a body registered under the law of the country, if not, what the position of the Press Association is, and

(c) if it is a fact that the Accredited Press Association is registered under the law of the country, if so, was any invitation of the kind referred to in the Resolution sent to this Registered Association, if not, the reasons for the discriminatory treatment?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: (a) I am informed that such a resolution was before the committee, but its consideration was postponed

(b) The Press Association is not a registered body and no invitation was sent to it to appoint parties to visit various places. The Press Association is a non-official organisation

(c) Yes. The remaining parts do not arise in view of the reply given to part (b) of this question

APPLICATIONS FOR ACCREDITATION OF NEWSPAPER REPRESENTATIVES

316. *Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: Will the Honourable Member for Information and Broadcasting please state

(a) the number of applications received from the Editors of Newspapers for accreditation of their representatives to the Headquarters of the Central Government during the preceding one year, and

(b) how these applications were disposed of?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: (a) 34

(b) Twenty-two applications were accepted, two were rejected. The rest are under consideration

APPLICATIONS FOR ACCREDITATION OF NEWSPAPER REPRESENTATIVES

317. *Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: Will the Honourable Member for Information and Broadcasting please state

(a) if it is a fact that applications from the Editors of Newspapers appointing representatives at the Headquarters of the Central Government, if and when received by the Central Government, are, as a matter of policy, referred to the Press Association for approval before they are accepted by the Central Government, if not, what policy and procedure were prescribed for it before 1943 and after 1943, respectively; and

(b) if it is a fact that the Central Government have vested in the Principal Information Officer the powers to call upon any association registered under the law of the country to change its name, if so, whether he proposes to lay on the table of this House the order of the Central Government giving such powers to the Principal Information Officer?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: (a) Yes. The reference to the Press Association is a matter not of policy but of expediency. The second part of the question does not arise.

(b) No But since accreditation is subject to certain conditions approved by the Government of India, P I O is competent to bring to the notice of any association connected with the Press or the Press Correspondents the necessity of observing these conditions The latter part of the question does not arise

AGE OF SUPERANNUATION FOR MILITARY SERVICE

318. *Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: Will the War Secretary please state

(a) if it is a fact that the age of 45 years has been prescribed as the old age for retention in military service in any capacity.

(b) if it is a fact that literate persons between the ages of 42 and 45 years were given Emergency Commission during the present war,

(c) if it is a fact that the persons between the ages of 42 and 45 years who are given Emergency Commissions are required to serve the Military in any capacity for the duration of the war,

(d) if it is a fact that the terms for the grant of Emergency Commission do not permit the Central Government or any other authority to call upon a Commissioned Officer to resign his Commission or appointment on attaining the age of 45 years, and

(e) if the replies to (a) to (d) be in the negative, what the true fact is? *

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: (a) and (c) There is no such age limit An officer is retained so long as his services are required

(b) to (d) Yes, Sir

ANTI-CORRUPTION MEASURES

319. *Mr. T. S. Avinashlingam Chettar: Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state—

(a) what steps Government have taken to root out corruption and bribery, and

(b) the number of cases instituted by the Central Government against officers employed by the Central Government for bribery and corruption in the course of this year?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: The following are the replies to the Honourable Member's question on the assumption that it refers to the activities of the Special anti-corruption organisation set up under the War Department

(a) In June 1941, a special police staff was set up, which was later constituted as the Special Police Establishment, War Department, under Ordinance No 22 of 1943 The primary object of this Special Establishment is the investigation of corruption in departments and branches engaged in purchasing in contracts of all kinds, in transport and in inspection of goods and works for the Defence Services

In the beginning cases investigated by the Special Police Establishment were sent for trial to the ordinary courts but it became increasingly clear that the machinery of the ordinary law was inadequate to cope with the evil and that special tribunals were needed to try such cases Accordingly three Special Tribunals have been constituted by the Central Government under the provisions of the Criminal Law Amendment Ordinance, 1943, with headquarters at Calcutta, Lahore and Lucknow, to try cases allotted to them in the First Schedule to the Ordinance Government have under consideration the question of increasing the number of Special Tribunals

The convictions awarded by the Special Tribunals and the ordinary criminal courts in cases investigated by the Special Police are given wide publicity in the press

(b) During the period from the 1st of January to the 31st of October 1944, the Special Police Establishment, War Department, took up 174 cases in which Central Government employees were involved Of these, 48 cases have been sent up for trial by criminal courts, 30 cases have been handed over to departments for departmental action, and 96 cases are still under investigation

PROFITS MADE BY THE UNITED KINGDOM COMMERCIAL CORPORATION

320. *Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state

(a) the amount of profits made by the United Kingdom Commercial Corporation through its activities in the internal and external trade of this country for the years 1940-41, 1941-42, 1942-43 and 1943-44, and

(b) whether he is aware that this Company has paid any income-tax, super-tax or excess profits-tax in this country?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) The information is not available. Moreover, if and when it is furnished to the Income-Tax Department its disclosure will be forbidden by section 54 of the Income-tax Act.

(b) No. The income-tax and excess profits tax assessments of the Corporation for the relevant years have not yet been completed.

DETENTION OF PANDIT JAWAHARLAL NEHRU AND OTHER WORKING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

321. *Mr. T. S. Avinashlingam Chettiar: (a) Will the Honourable the Home Member please state when the last order of detention was made on Pandit Jawaharlal and other Working Committee members?

(b) When is the next review due?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) and (b) Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and the other detained Members of the Congress Working Committee are detained under orders issued by the Provincial Governments concerned. The orders must have been extended some time before July 15th 1944, six months after the Restriction and Detention Ordinance 1941, came into force, and will expire on January 15th, 1945, unless previously cancelled or extended. There is no fixed time for reviews.

POLICY *re* IMMIGRATION OF JEWS TO INDIA

322. *Sardar Sant Singh: Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to make a statement as to the policy of the Government of India in regard to immigration of Jews to India with particular reference to the following matters

(i) was the policy initiated by the Government of India or was it done by His Majesty's Government, and

(ii) did the Governor General in Council consider this matter?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: The policy originally followed by the Government of India in common with several other countries was to give refuge and protection to the members of the Jewish community who were subjected to persecution on account of anti-Semitic laws. Subsequently when the number of Jews seeking entry into this country began to increase, the Government of India were constrained to restrict the number of future immigrants. The present policy is to admit only those who can undertake work of national importance, and those whose cases present special features, e.g., dependents of Jews who are already in this country, and those who would otherwise be in danger of falling into enemy hands.

This policy was decided by the Governor-General in Council, but His Majesty's Government were kept informed throughout.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**INCOME-TAX DEDUCTIONS *re* INTEREST ON BOMBAY PORT TRUST BONDS OF HOLDERS IN UNITED KINGDOM**

50. Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state whether interest is deducted at the source on Bombay Port Trust Bonds held by a non-resident holder in the United Kingdom of the Bombay Port Trust Loan? If not, why not?

(b) What steps are taken for the recovery of income-tax on such interest and on similar items of income of a non-resident in the United Kingdom earning rent, interest or profits in India?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) I take it that the Honourable Member is referring to deduction of income-tax at source from interest payable on Bombay Port Trust Loans held by non-resident holders in the United Kingdom. Income-tax is deducted at source from such interest on all such loans except sterling loans issued for public subscription before the 1st April, 1938. Deduction of tax at source has been waived in the case of such sterling loans because of the hardship that would be caused to the payer by the enforcement of the law, the payer, *viz.*, the Bombay Port Trust not being in a position to pass on the tax liability to the payee, who is entitled under the United Kingdom law to receive the interest without any deduction.

(b) I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to the provisions of sub-section (3), (3A), (3B) and (3C) of section 18 and sections 42 and 43 of the Income-tax Act which provide the machinery for the collection of tax in the type of cases referred to by him.

EMPIRE DOLLAR POOL

51. Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state the constitution and the amount of the Empire Dollar Pool at the last available date?

(b) Where is this money kept and under whose control?

(c) What is the share of India in this Dollar Pool?

(d) Has the position been modified since the last budget speech of the Finance Member?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) The Empire Dollar Pool is an arrangement by all the Empire countries in the sterling area to pool under the control of H M G all their foreign exchange resources under parallel systems of exchange control, each country being entitled to obtain its foreign exchange requirements from the Bank of England. Information regarding the amount of the Pool is not available and in any case could not be published without detriment to public interest.

(b) United States dollar balances of the Empire Dollar Pool are maintained in the U S A and are under the control of H M G.

(c) No specific share is allotted to India. Like other Empire countries, India gets her essential requirements of dollars from the pool.

(d) No.

INDIA'S STERLING BALANCES

52. Mr. T. S. Avinashlingam Chettiar: Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state—

(a) the latest available figure regarding the Indian sterling resources in England.

(b) whether there have been discussion between the two Governments regarding the liquidation of these resources, and

(c) whether any agreement has been arrived at between the two Governments; if so what the clauses of the agreement are?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) The sterling resources owned by the Reserve Bank of India on the 27th October, 1944, amounted to Rs 1,169 crores.

(b) No. I would, however, invite the Honourable Member's attention to my reply to starred question No 86, asked by Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad on the 3rd November, 1944.

(c) No agreement has been arrived at.

COST OF WAR ON INDIA

53. Mr. T. S. Avinashlingam Chettiar: Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state—

(a) the total cost of the war on India up to date as far as available,

(b) if this amount is met by taxation, contribution and debts; and

(c) the guiding factors in the allocation of expenditure between India, England and America in the war expenditure on India?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) and (b) India has borne as her share of Defence expenditure under the Financial Settlement with His Majesty's Government a total sum of Rs 494 22 crores to the end of 1942-43. The Revised estimates for 1943-44 and the Budget for 1944-45 provided for a further sum of Rs 602 15 crores being borne by India up to the end of 1944-45.

These amounts are covered by the proceeds of taxation and borrowings.

(c) As regards the allocation of expenditure between India and His Majesty's Government I would refer the Honourable Member to my Budget speeches. So far as the United States of America is concerned, a reference is invited to the answer given in the Council of State to the Honourable Mr Hossain Inam's question No 138 on the 12th August, 1943, and the press note on the subject of Reciprocal Aid published on the 3rd September, 1944.

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT

FAILURE TO GIVE RELIEF TO WEAVERS IN BURHANPUR AND OTHER PLACES IN THE CENTRAL PROVINCES

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) I have received notice 12 Noon of an adjournment motion from Nawab Siddique Ali Khan who wishes to discuss a matter of urgent public importance, i.e., "the forced unemployment and the consequent starvation of thousands of weavers in Burhanpur and other places in the C P owing to the lack of yarn supply and the failure of the Textile Commissioner to give relief to the sufferers (partial report of which is published in *Dawn* of 11th November, 1944).

When did this failure take place?

Nawab Siddique Ali Khan (Central Provinces and Berar Muhammadan) This was published on the 11th November.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) I want to know when the failure took place. It does not matter when it was published.

Nawab Siddique Ali Khan: Recently, last week. It came to my notice on the 11th.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) Does this mean that before last week, the supply of yarn was adequate?

(No reply)

This motion is certainly not urgent within the meaning of the Rules. It is disallowed.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE CENTRAL ADVISORY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Mr. J. D. Tyson (Secretary, Department of Education, Health and Lands). Sir, I move

"That the members of this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as may be approved by the Honourable the President, two persons from among their own numbers to be members of the Central Advisory Board of Education in India, with effect from the date of election."

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) Motion moved.

"That the members of this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as may be approved by the Honourable the President, two persons from among their own numbers to be members of the Central Advisory Board of Education in India, with effect from the date of election."

Mr. H. A. Sathar H Essak Sait (West Coast and Nilgris Muhammadan). Sir, I move

"That the word 'four' be substituted for the word 'two'."

I expected my Honourable friend to explain what this Board is for and whether these members are in addition to the ordinary two members that we have. So far as I remember, we usually elect members to this Board in the Budget Session. Does this motion mean that we are to have two extra members?

I thought that this Board is going to be reconstructed in view of the big schemes of reconstruction in education. If that is so, then we should claim

[Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait]

more representation than we usually have. I am sorry I am handicapped because my friend said nothing with regard to this motion. Considering that this Assembly represents the whole country, the representation provided is very inadequate. I should think that even four may not be found to be sufficient by many in this House but I am modest and I propose that we should elect four on this Board.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sh. Abdur Rahim) Amendment moved

"That the word 'four' be substituted for the word 'two'."

Mr. N. M. Joshi (Nominated Non-Official) I rise to oppose the original motion. My reason is that this Board of Education is not a representative one. There are no Labour representatives on it. I cannot approve of the Legislature sending representatives to a Board which is not a representative one. I would like to know whether the working classes of this country are interested in the promotion of education for which this Board is to be appointed. I would also like to know if the Board is interested in the education of the working classes of this country, the kisans and peasants and landless labourers. If the Board is interested then this Board must contain representatives who will voice the interests of these people. At present there is no labour representative and I insist that before the Legislature votes for this motion the Legislature should take a promise from the Honourable Member that labour will be adequately represented on this Board.

There is another smaller complaint on account of which I do not propose to vote for this motion. This Board, I think, publishes some reports. It is engaged in some important work of reconstruction and the Legislature is not provided with reports of what this Board does. I would like the Legislature to refuse to send its representative to a committee the report of which is not circulated to Members of the Legislature. I suggest, therefore, that unless the Honourable Member promises that the reports of this Central Board of Education will be circulated to the Members of the Legislature, they should not agree to the nomination of members as representatives. I therefore oppose this motion, unless I receive a satisfactory reply from the Honourable Member.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad (United Provinces Southern Divisions, Muhammadan Rural) Mr. Joshi has opposed the motion on the ground that the report is not circulated among the Members. I agree in principle that all reports of committees to which representatives of Legislature are elected should be supplied to its Members but I do not agree that this Board should be singled out for attack because .

Mr. N. M. Joshi Who singles out? I want all reports to be supplied.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: I agree with Mr. Joshi there. The Central Legislature should have an opportunity of knowing what its committees are doing but my point is that this particular Board should not be singled out.

Another thing is that the report of this Board will interest very few persons in the Assembly. (Interruption) Let me finish my remarks. It will be less interesting than the reports of many more important committees such as the Supply Committee, Defence Committee, Coffee Cess Committee, Tea Committee and so on. If Mr. Joshi wants the reports of all the Committees to be supplied, then I agree. His remarks should apply to every committee.

As regards the point raised by Mr. Essak Sait, I am not aware whether the Government of India have got a scheme for reorganisation of the Central Board of Education and expanding it. If that is the case then it is fair that the quota of the Legislative Assembly should be increased. At present the quota of each province is fixed at two and no province can have more than two. The point was raised in the past. Certain persons wanted to bring their Advisers and Directors of Public Instruction but it was decided that no province will have more than two, for this reason that if one man is absent, the province may go unrepresented. The increase if it is allowed in the case of the Assembly will have to take place all round. Other constituencies will want their quota to be increased. It is not a Committee of the

House. Then the number will become very unwieldy and it will be difficult to obtain quick decisions. As it is, the Board, as its name implies, is advisory and its decisions are not operative. It is only advisory to the various Academic bodies and Provinces who have got powers to act and I know that in this case their advice has been in several cases exceedingly good.

As I am a member of this Committee representing the Assembly, I think it will not be out of place if I mention a few facts, demanded by some Members. Take, for instance, the case of examinations. There has been a definite complaint from every quarter that there is something wrong with the system of our examinations. Maulvi Abdul Ghani raised the question of compartmental examinations several times. Then, we have also raised the question that the examinations are not the real test of merit. This question has been examined very minutely by this Committee and they have recommended a number of definite changes and the lead given by the Central Advisory Committee is now being followed by various Universities and other examining bodies. As a result of this, I know that half a dozen Universities have introduced the system of compartmental and supplementary examinations. Then, we have the method of examination, that is, replacing the numerical marks by means of symbols.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) All that is not relevant to the motion before the House.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Sir, it is necessary to mention here the work that this body has been doing and this information has been demanded by some of the Members. If the constitution remains as it is and the quota is not increased for any province, then, I think, this question cannot be taken up as an isolated factor.

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Guntur cum Nellore Non-Muhammadian Rural) Sir, I am rather surprised at the attitude taken up by Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad. I do not know whether he knows quite well on which side of the House he happens to be. He has come today as a sort of an apologist for the Government of India and he even claims to know much more about the work of this Committee than the Honourable Member who is supposed to be in charge of this subject. If my Honourable friend is pleased with Dr. Zia Uddin's espousal of the cause of this Committee, then he ought to be more enthusiastic about accepting my Honourable friend Mr. Essak Sait's amendment, because, if there is such a demand for his Committee, then it will be more profitable for himself and the Government to have more Members of the House on this Committee so that there will be more people to speak in addition to the Government spokesman.

Then, Sir, I appreciate the interest displayed by my Honourable friend Mr. Joshi in regard to the Kisans. I like his championship of the claims of the Labour for representation on this Committee and I would like him as well as every other Member of the House to remember that it will not be enough if the agriculturists, both landed and landless, are clubbed with labour.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: No, I would like to have separate representation.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: I quite see that my Honourable friend Mr. Joshi is one with me in feeling that the agriculturists deserve independent representation, but I know also that some of the people who today claim to represent the Indian Trade Union Congress and who happen to be in England now are going about giving the impression to the English public that by 'labour' they mean not only the industrial labour in the towns but also the agricultural labour as well as the labouring proprietors of land, and I certainly dissent from that view-point.

Sir, this is a very important Committee and I do not know why my Honourable friend Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad does not want more representation for this Committee from this House. He says it is unwieldy, it may be so. He says that the quotas for various provinces have been very carefully fixed, it may be so. But that is no reason why this House should not be given better representation on this Committee, so that this House should be able to satisfy itself representing as it does all interests in this country that

[Prof N G Ranga]

this Committee does justice to all sections of the people and also is doing its work properly

Recently, we had the spectacle of the Adviser to the Government of India, Mr. Sargent, going to the United States and making such statements in the name of this Committee and also in the name of this Government to which several sections of the country have taken objection. Therefore, this Committee must be strengthened by adequate representation from this House, so that it will be possible for this Committee to control the Educational Adviser and other officers of the Government. Therefore, I support this amendment.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai (Sind Non-Muhammadan Rural) Sir, I intervene in this debate only because I have heard an expression from Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad that the Members of this House generally would not take much interest in this matter if they were to represent this House on this Committee. I know that he is a very great educationist, but sometimes he becomes too competent and thinks that he alone can read these reports and give proper attention to them.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: I said that there were other subjects besides this which were really more important and there should be more representation of this House on those Committees.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: The Honourable Member ought to know that on the question of education, Members of this House have been taking very keen interest.

Then, Sir, I know that in these days, the interests of the labour cannot be ignored. We know how strong they are both in Europe and in other parts of the world. Their interests, therefore, should be fully guarded. Therefore, I do not think that the demand of my Honourable friend is in any way unreasonable. I would therefore agree with him that there should be the representation of labour on this Committee. Even if he wants a separate representation, that question ought to be considered. But so far as this motion is concerned, I think the amendment that has been moved should be accepted. The number of Members should be increased and the labour may be given separate representation. To have only two Members from this House as is the case now is a mere mockery. In educational matters like this there should be full representation of this House. We do now know what this Central Board of Education is actually doing. In this House I have several times put questions to find out if they had been tackling such and such matter. I have, for instance, asked about the uniformity of education in all the Indian Universities because the candidates are affected when they appear before the Federal Public Service Commission for various examinations. There is a prejudice against those candidates who belong to certain Universities. So, questions of this nature have got to be considered by this Committee and therefore there should be full representation of this House on it. Sir, I support the amendment of my Honourable friend Mr. Essak Sayt.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani (Tirhut Division Muhammadan) Sir, this Board is called an Advisory Board but I find from its working that it is not advisory. Its decisions are enforced upon us without the matter being brought to the notice of this House. As an instance, I would cite the case of the Wardha scheme of education. It was forced upon us notwithstanding the vehement opposition of the Muslims from all over the country. It was enforced in Bihar on the advice of this Board.

Kunwer Haje Ismail Alikhan (Nominated Non-Official) Are you opposing the motion or supporting the motion?

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: I am making suggestions. As regards the supply of copies of the proceedings of the Board, I am at one with my Honourable friend Mr. Joshi. This point has been resisted on the ground that other Committees do not supply copies of their reports to Honourable Members of the House. But I say that the reports of important Committees, like the Public Accounts Committee, the Standing Finance Committee, and the Standing Finance Committee for Railways, are supplied to Honourable Members

of the House. These are all important Committees. The Central Advisory Board of Education is the foremost of all, because it affects everybody in the country. It deals with education of all kinds. I wholeheartedly support the motion of my Honourable friend Mr. Essak Sait.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh (Nagpur Division Non-Muhammadan) : Are there any ladies on this Central Advisory Board of Education?

Dr. P. N. Banerjee (Calcutta Suburbs Non-Muhammadan Urban) : There are two lady Members.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh : Is there adequate representation of ladies? If not, I hope the matter will be taken into consideration and more seats allotted for ladies on the Board.

Mr. J. D. Tyson : Perhaps I had better tell the House, though this is no new Board, what the constitution of it is. The Honourable Member in charge of the Department is the chairman of the Board, and the Educational Adviser to the Government of India is a member. There are twelve Members nominated by the Government of India, of whom four shall be women. At the moment, I think, there are only two lady members on it, but the Resolution was amended only recently and there will soon be four. The other members are Two Members of the Legislative Assembly elected by the Legislative Assembly, one Member of the Council of State elected by the Council of State, three Members of the Inter University Board nominated by that Board and a representative of each Provincial Government who should be either the Minister in charge or the Director of Public Instruction or such other person as the Provincial Government may nominate, and finally five Members to be nominated by the Government of India in consultation with the Crown Representative to represent the Indian States. Now, Sir, it is with respect to the two Members of this Honourable House that I have made this motion today. The term of office of the two sitting Members expired, I think, in September. There has been no meeting of any Committee in the meantime, but we should like to have the election at once as meetings are due in the very near future. This is not an addition to the Board, but just the two seats for which the Resolution constituting the Board provides. Not is there, so far as I am aware, any intention at the moment of changing the constitution of this Board because of reconstruction or for any other reason. We have every cause to be satisfied with the present composition and as a matter of fact with the work that this Board has done. It has been an exceedingly active Board, and I think it is significant that one of the Members representing this House on the Committee has spoken strongly in its favour this morning, the Vice-Chancellor of Aligarh University. Speaking off-hand, I do not think that there is any representative of labour on the Board. What we try to get on this Board is eminent educationists who represent educational interests. But I am perfectly prepared to examine and see whether it is possible to have an eminent educationist, among the nominated Members of the Board, who could be regarded as specially interested in and competent to speak for the labouring classes whether urban or rural. Primarily, however, it is an educationists' Board and merely because a man was a good labour man, we would not care to have him on the Board. We want educationists, first and foremost.

Mr. N. M. Joshi : What about Legislature's representation?

Mr. J. D. Tyson : I am coming to that presently. I have already said that this is a very active Committee. It has been our practice to publish its Reports for some years, though I am not quite sure that we had not to cut down a little owing to paper shortage lately. But I know some of these reports are in the library of the House. Some reports of the bi-annual—(twice a year)—meetings are in the Library of the House. I myself put into the Library of the House a number of copies of the Report of the Central Advisory Board on educational reconstruction. The Board has no desire to hide its light under a bushel. In fact Honourable Members of this House who are interested in the recommendations of this Board on educational reconstruction, will have an opportunity this evening of meeting the Educational Adviser

[Mr. J. D. Tyson]

in the Library of the House. The Honourable Member for Education, Health and Lands has arranged a meeting for an informal discussion of that report which is a report by this particular Board.

I may say that as regards the publication and issue of these reports to Honourable Members of this House, the parallel sought to be drawn by my Honourable friend Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghami is not strictly a correct one. He referred to the reports of the Public Accounts Committee and the Standing Finance Committee. These are both Committees of this House and the House proceeds to consider the reports of its own Committees, and it is therefore necessary that these reports should be in the hands of all Honourable Members of this House. The Central Advisory Board is not a Committee of the Legislature. I confess we have not circulated to every Honourable Member of the House the reports of this Central Advisory Board. I should be perfectly prepared to consider that, as soon as the paper shortage position eases a little. We are only too glad that the House is taking an interest in the work of the Board.

Now, Sir, as regards the point that this Board is not in fact an Advisory Board, but that its decisions are being forced upon various bodies. I am afraid that I did not quite catch the instance that my Honourable friend Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghami gave. In fact it is an Advisory Board and it cannot enforce its decisions upon anybody.

On the merits of the amendment, I should like to say this that the constitution of the Board itself ensures representation of educational interests through eminent educationists and Government try to see that educationists of all communities find a place on the Board. I should like to emphasise that the Government value, and so do the Board, the link which the representation of the Legislature gives the Board. It so happens that this Honourable House has in the past sent eminent educationists to the Central Advisory Board. But this is not the prime object of this representation because we can get educationists through other elements on the Board. The primary object is to have representatives of the House, if they are eminent educationists that is no doubt helpful but that is not the special object of representation of this House. It is only to secure a link with the Legislature. This is a comparatively small Board, composed as I have outlined. I do not admit it is a large Board at all. The essence of it is that it is rather a small and compact body. We think that for the purpose of having the House represented there, so that the Board may know what the House thinks about things and so that in due course the House may be informed about the Board by its own representatives, two from here and one from another place is a good and sufficient representation, and I would deprecate any addition to the numbers which does not seem necessary for the purpose we have in mind. The discussions of this body are very informal and intimate, they sit round a table, and it would be unfortunate if we started a process of increasing the numbers of this body so that its present intimate character was imperilled. Nor do I think would it be right to increase the number of Members from this House with a view to giving representation to any particular community, because that would not in itself ensure that that community got representation, and I think that can be done, if it is desirable, in other ways. I therefore regret that I cannot accept this motion and I would request the Honourable Member who moved it to withdraw it.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) The question is—

"That the word 'four' be substituted for the word 'two'."

The motion was negatived.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) The question is—

"That the members of this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as may be approved by the Honourable the President, two persons from among their own numbers to be members of the Central Advisory Board of Education in India, with effect from the date of election."

The motion was adopted.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE INDIAN COCONUT COMMITTEE

Mr. J. D. Tyson (Secretary, Department of Education, Health and Lands):
Sir, I move

"That the members of this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as may be approved by the Honourable the President, two persons from among their own numbers to be members of the Indian Coconut Committee under section 4(g) of the Indian Coconut Committee Act, 1944 (X of 1944) "

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) Motion moved

"That the members of this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as may be approved by the Honourable the President, two persons from among their own numbers to be members of the Indian Coconut Committee under section 4(g) of the Indian Coconut Committee Act, 1944 (X of 1944) "

Mr. N. M. Joshi (Nominated Non-Official) Sir, I rise to oppose this motion. When this Bill was under consideration of this House I suggested to the Government of India that a representative of the workers who are engaged in this industry as employees should be on that Committee. Unfortunately neither Government nor this House accepted my proposal. I feel that the Government of India in forming this Committee and in not giving representation to the employees engaged in this production of coconuts have made a mistake, and if this mistake is to be corrected I think the only pressure which I can bring upon the Government of India is to refuse the nomination of the Legislature on this Committee.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee (Calcutta Suburbs Non-Muhammadian Urban) You must have an amendment of the Act itself.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Yes, I entirely agree, but unfortunately that is not in my hands. I must therefore enter my protest, which I do in this manner.

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Guntur cum Nellore Non-Muhammadian Rural) Sir, I find of all objects to the financial basis on which this Committee has been financed. Funds have been raised at the cost of these people engaged in this industry of raising coconuts.

Mr. J. D. Tyson: Sir, on a point of order. Is the financial basis on which the Coconut Committee is to work relevant to the present motion?

Prof. N. G. Ranga: When I oppose the present motion it is relevant so far as it relates to finance as well as the conducting of this Committee.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) The Honourable Member cannot discuss on this motion questions of policy which have been already decided.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: This Government do not want to do anything, specially for the benefit of this section of agriculturists. But that is wrong. It is the duty of Government to do everything possible, financial and otherwise, to help these people. They used to do a little before this Committee came to be constituted or at least it was expected. But now after this Committee has come anything that Government may have to do, which is expected to cost anything at all, is shoved on to this Committee, and it is considered to be a responsibility of this Committee to finance it. I take strong objection to this basis of the Committee and to this idea of Government. That is not the way in which this cess has been collected and this Committee has been functioning.

Much trouble has been caused to the people engaged in coconut growing. Coconut growing takes a long time and by the time people are able to realise the coconuts and pay the cess, it takes such a long time that at any one stage if Government or the Committee are not careful, the peasants are likely to be made to pay much more and also on crops that have been realised much earlier but the financial results are realised later on. In particular, there is grievance felt by the people concerned and they made a representation to the Honourable Member some time ago that the cess that was being levied on them on the crop of 1943-44 was really being realised on the crop that they had realised in 1942-43.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) The Honourable Member cannot discuss that now.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: I am discussing the way in which the Committee has been acting. But that representation has been made to the Honourable Member and I trust he will try to go into it in detail and, if necessary, appoint a departmental committee and see that justice is done to the people concerned in this matter. I hope that before the Honourable Member comes again to this House with a motion like this next year this question will be settled satisfactorily to all concerned.

Mr. J. D. Tyson: As regards the point made by my Honourable friend Mr. Joshi, that point was considered at the time the Bill was before the House and no way was found of giving representation to labour. The element of labour represented by the growers is, of course, represented, and what I have come to the House for today is to ask the House to elect representatives to represent the consumers' interests. As regards the points raised by Prof. Ranga, of course any difficulty that may have been caused to the grower, is certainly not the fault of the Committee, for the Committee has not yet been constituted. The States had to pass legislation and there had to be nominations from States and from Provincial Governments. These have now nearly all been received and it is with regard to the future constitution of the Committee that I have come to the House today with this motion. If, however, in the collection of the cess under the Act difficulties have arisen and Prof. Ranga will let us know about them, I will certainly be very glad to look into them.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) The question is

"That the members of this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as may be approved by the Honourable the President, two persons from among their own numbers to be members of the Indian Coconut Committee under section 4(c) of the Indian Coconut Committee Act, 1944 (X of 1944)."

The motion was adopted.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE FOR THE INDUSTRIES AND CIVIL SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque (Member for Commerce and Industries and Civil Supplies) Before I move may I have your permission to make a slight change in the motion standing in my name, namely instead of three non-official members I would like to have six non-official members to serve on the Standing Committee. Sir, there is a general desire in the House that the number of non-official Members should be increased, and after discussion with the different sides we have come to an agreement that the number of non-official Members from this House should be six. May I move it, Sir, with your permission?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) Yes.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: Sir, I move

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the President may direct, six non-official members to serve on the Standing Committee to advise on subjects in the Department of Industries and Civil Supplies."

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) Motion moved.

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the President may direct six non-official members to serve on the Standing Committee to advise on subjects in the Department of Industries and Civil Supplies."

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh (Nagpur Division Non-Muhammadsan) Sir, may I have some more information about the functions of this advisory body and what it is expected to do?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: All I can say is that it will have the same functions as the Advisory Committees for other departments. I will be quite prepared to place before the Committee any matter of importance which any member of the Committee may desire to discuss for the purpose of getting their advice.

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Salt (West Coast and Nilgiris Muhammadan).— Sir, I am glad that the Honourable Member has increased the quota of members from this House.

With regard to the functions, I am not very happy about the reply which he has given to my Honourable friend, Mr. Deshmukh. He said that this Committee will have the same functions as other Advisory Committees. Our experience in connection with other Advisory Committees is not at all satisfactory. Meetings are held very seldom, very small and unimportant matters are placed before them because it is for the Honourable Member to say what should be placed before the committee. The functions of this committee and powers of members are not defined, whereas we in this House feel that our representatives are having full powers and are functioning very well. Therefore my Honourable friend should take a warning today. If he is going to deal with this Committee as other departments deal with their committee, then probably next time when he comes with such a motion before the House we may not be very lenient.

The other point I wish to make is this. He has not mentioned whether the election to this committee is for one year or for how many years. He has not mentioned any period. I would very much like him to come to this House next year so that we may review the work of this department.

Mr. N. M. Joshi (Nominated Non-Official). I would like the Legislature to consider the question very seriously, namely whether they should send their representatives to committees which are not only advisory but which work in secret, and which do not make any report to the Legislature. I feel the time has come for the Legislature to consider this question very seriously whether they should send representatives to committees which do not report to them and therefore the Members who are sent to the committees are not responsible to the Legislature. We do not know what advice they give. We send them there and we receive no report. My own view is that such committees instead of strengthening the control of the Legislature over the executive weaken the control of the Legislature, because these members get committed to certain policies of the Government in secret without the Legislature knowing in what way they have voted in the committee. I feel, Sir, that the Legislature should consider whether they should send representatives to committees which are not responsible to the Legislature.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad (United Provinces Southern Division Muhammadan Rural). Sir, I must confess I misunderstood the point last time. I am rather in favour of the reports of these committees being circulated amongst the Members of this House. What I objected to was that one particular committee should not be singled out for that. It should be extended to all such committees. I think, Sir, it is only fair that reports of these committees ought to be circulated among the Members of this House. I would like to go one step further and say that they should not only be circulated, but we should have an opportunity to discuss them on the floor of this House, so that we may be able to express our opinion on them and examine what our representatives have done. I have had this complaint with regard to several committees that although they were appointed by this House we had no opportunity to discuss their reports. Therefore, I request that the Government should consider this proposal and in future they should print the reports of these committees, excluding of course any information of confidential and secret nature which due to war conditions it may not be advisable to publish, and circulate them among the Members of this House, and we should have an opportunity to discuss those reports.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir (Bombay City Non-Muhammadan Urban). So far as I understand, the functions of these committees are as follows. That a certain number of Honourable Members elected by this House should be in a position to know more of the subjects of the department that come before this House, and they should be in a position to cross-examine the Honourable Member or

[Sir Cowasjee Jehangir.]

any representative of his departments in these committees. No vote I presume is taken and they come here better informed in order to inform this House of their point of view on questions that come before us. That I understand is the function of these committees. Since no vote is taken

An Honourable Member: Votes are taken

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: So far as I know, no votes are taken.

An Honourable Member: They are taken, if necessary

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: I am not talking of Statutory Committees. I am, talking of committees such as may be appointed by this Honourable House at a request made by an Honourable Member for having an advisory committee with regard to his department. In such committees no votes are taken. And therefore it was considered advisable that at least a certain number of Members of this Honourable House should be better acquainted with the working of the department and with the subjects that come before this House. If that is the object, then if Members of the Committees would themselves ask the Honourable Member in charge of the department to place certain subjects before the committee, he would, I think, be bound to do so. But if they always leave it to the Honourable Member to place before the committee whatever he may like, then it is the fault of members of the committee themselves. I understand that no Honourable Member would refuse to bring a particular subject before the Advisory Committee if he was requested to do so, but he is not in a position always to know what is the subject that any particular member of the committee would like discussed. If that is the understanding—that the Honourable Member will bring forward such subjects as any individual member of the committee may require and have it discussed so that the committee may be better prepared to give us their advice when the matter comes before this House,—I think that committee will be doing a useful service.

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Guntur *com* Nellore Non-Muhammadan Rural) I take strong objection to the suggestions that have fallen from the lips of my Honourable friend, Sir Cowasjee Jehangir. Sir, if the House is to accept his point of view, it will seriously curtail the powers and also the utility of the Members who are to go and serve on these committees. They are not to go and get themselves educated through the good offices of the departmental members concerned, but also to communicate the general sense of this House on those questions that are brought up for discussion, and see that even in advance of the member coming to this House the Member concerned of the Government will be able to know what is likely to be the attitude of this House, therefore his proposal may be suitably amended and developed before he comes to this House. Sir, I have always understood it to be the English practice—and here I speak subject to correction—that these committees are not only expected to give the benefit of the general attitude of this House to the Member concerned but also to try, as far as it is possible for them even through their advisory capacity, to influence the policy and activities of the department and the Member concerned and also help him in shaping his own views and his own activities in regard to the business of his department. Now, Sir, if we are to accept the views of my Honourable friend, Sir Cowasjee Jehangir, the powers of the members of these committees as well as the committees themselves will be considerably restricted.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: I have not disagreed in whatever I have said with a word that you have said up to now. I do not know what you are going to say in the future.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: I am glad he is in agreement with me. He thinks votes ought not to be taken in these committees. If he really means that votes ought not to be taken or are not taken, I disagree with him. If he means that as far as possible they should try to express their views unanimously then there can be no disagreement.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) The question has been raised before more than once, when it has been explained what are the functions of these committees. These general questions which have been dealt with before cannot be discussed over again on every motion like this.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: If they have been already dealt with and the House is expected to know what has been decided upon and the House is not expected to agree with what my Honourable friend, Sir Cowsajee Jehangir, has said today, I have nothing more to add

Sir Cowsajee Jehangir: I have said nothing contrary to what you have said

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I agree with Dr Sir Zia Uddin's statement that no single Department should be singled out for the purpose of criticism. Most of the points are of a general nature. I have some experience of Standing Committees. There are often peculiar difficulties which I hope my Honourable friend, Prof Ranga, will realise. A little while ago a very important question was placed before that Committee. We were very anxious to know the views of the members. I had several meetings but unfortunately quite a number of members said 'we cannot give any view just now we do not know our Party's attitude'. It makes the Standing Committee's work extremely difficult if a member after getting all the pros and cons and after being able to discuss threadbare all the issues, says, 'I cannot give my view till my Party's opinion is known'. I am anxious to call these committees at a time when the Legislature is not in Session but it is difficult because I cannot get the different Parties at the time. Yet I can assure my friend that there is not a single member in the Government Department who is not anxious to place any matter on any question of policy or administration which the Members of this House may discuss.

I have nothing more to say as it is in the nature of an Advisory Committee only. I do not know the procedure of other committees, but I take it that the nature of an Advisory Committee is what has been stated.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee (Calcutta Suburbs Non-Muhammadan Urban) Will this Committee meet frequently?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: That depends on the matters which will be placed before the Committee.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) The question is

That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the President may direct, six non official members to serve on the Standing Committee to advise on subjects in the Department of Industries and Civil Supplies."

The motion was adopted

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) I have to inform Honourable Members that the following dates have been fixed for receiving nominations and for holding elections, if necessary, in connection with the following Committees, namely

	Date for nomination.	Date for election.
1. Central Advisory Board of Education in India	14th November	16th November.
2. Indian Coconut Committee	14th November	16th November.
3. Standing Committee for the Department of Industries and Civil Supplies	15th November	17th November.

The nominations for all the three Committees will be received in the Notice Office upto 12 Noon on the dates mentioned for the purpose. The elections which will be conducted in accordance with the principle of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote, will be held in the Assistant Secretary room in the Council House New Delhi, between the hours of 10-30 A.M. and 1 P.M.

THE INDIAN PATENTS AND DESIGNS (TEMPORARY AMENDMENT) BILL

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) Legislative Business.
Sir Azizul Huque

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque (Member for Commerce and Industries and Civil Supplies) Sir, I move

"That the Bill temporarily to amend the Indian Patents and Designs Act, 1911, be taken into consideration"

There are certain modifications brought about by section 42(6) of the Defence of India Rules. They are not sufficient to cope with the war time conditions. Under section 21 of the Indian Patents and Designs Act, the Government could only use or exercise an invention which was needed for the services of the Crown and they could sell any articles made in pursuance of such rights if they were surplus. When the Defence of India Rules were changed large powers were given as regards the use of any drawing, model, plans, specification or other documents. But it has been found necessary to extend these powers so that inventions can be used or exercised or even sold for any purpose necessary or expedient for the efficient prosecution of the war or for the maintenance of civil supplies or services or for such other purposes for which the Indian Patents and Designs Act is intended.

There is another difficulty about agreements which had been entered into between applicants or patentees and third parties and it is necessary that some provision should be made to make inoperative any agreement or licence subsisting between the applicant or patentee and the third party.

The last difficulty will be about the rights of persons to whom the articles made by Government as a result of such inventions are sold. It is necessary to protect them.

It is to meet these three minor matters that I have brought forward this amending Bill. Sir, I move

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) Motion moved

"That the Bill temporarily to amend the Indian Patents and Designs Act, 1911, be taken into consideration"

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait (West Coast and Nilgiris, Muhammadan) I have an amendment, but I want to ask a question and if the reply is satisfactory I will not move it. "Why does my Honourable friend want to give retrospective effect to the provisions in the Act?" He says that this is to come into force from the 3rd September 1939.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: Because in the meantime certain transactions have been entered into, certain patents have been taken over and unless they are made inoperative, Government will not be able to protect the rights of the third parties. So it is necessary to safeguard their interests.

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait. I am not moving the amendment.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) The motion is now open for discussion.

(No Honourable Member got up to speak)

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) The question is

"That the Bill temporarily to amend the Indian Patents and Designs Act, 1911, be taken into consideration"

The motion was adopted

Clause 2 was added to the Bill.

Clause 1 was added to the Bill.

The Title and the Preamble were added to the Bill.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) Sir Azizul Huque.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: Sir, I move

"That the Bill be passed"

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) The question is

"That the Bill be passed"

The motion was adopted

THE COFFEE MARKET EXPANSION (SECOND AMENDMENT) BILL

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Haque (Member for Commerce and Industries and Civil Supplies) Sir, I move

"That the Bill further to amend the Coffee Market Expansion Act, 1942 (Second Amendment), be taken into consideration."

The main purpose of this Bill is to make legal research work within the scope of the activities of the Coffee Market Expansion Act. Certain funds came in and it was thought desirable to spend them on coffee research. Sir, I move.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) Motion moved

"That the Bill further to amend the Coffee Market Expansion Act, 1942 (Second Amendment), be taken into consideration."

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad (United Provinces Southern Divisions Muhammadan Rural) Sir, I very much appreciate the work that is being done by the

I P. M. Government through the Coffee Cess Committee but, at the same time, I think it is desirable, as I pressed last time, that we should have an annual report from this Committee and if necessary, we should have the opportunity to discuss the matter in the House. It is quite possible that the non-official Members may be able to make suggestions, for there is always the possibility of improving even the best. The best can always be made better. In spite of the fact that good work is already being done by the Committee I think it is desirable that we should have an opportunity to consider the matter. I would ask the Honourable Member to assure us that an annual report of the Committee will be printed and circulated among the Members of the House so that we may know what the Committee is doing instead of, as at present, the Members getting their information from private sources.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar (Salem and Coimbatore cum North Arcot Non-Muhammadan Rural) I see, Sir, that this amending Bill seeks to circulate what money is left out to be added on to the general fund. All the money of the pool comes from two sources, the pool gets all the sums realised by the fund from the sale of coffee as also the surplus in the fund. The section specifies the ways in which the money may be spent. May I know how they get this surplus which they want to put to the general fund? Has it been realised by the sale of coffee? The Coffee Houses, which are working in various parts of the country are working at a profit. May I know whether any part of this fund is from the coffee houses? May I know whether these coffee houses were intended to be worked at a profit or as a means of propaganda. If the coffee houses were intended to work for a profit, I must submit that that was not the intention when these coffee houses were opened. Let us know how this fund has been arrived at.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Haque: I think I might explain the circumstances in which this pool has arisen. A duty of Rs 14 a hundredweight was imposed. On the date the excise duty on coffee was imposed there happened to be 7,200 tons of coffee in the pool which having been cured before the imposition of the duty was not dutiable but for the sake of administrative convenience the duty was realised, because otherwise it would have been very difficult to distinguish between that coffee and the coffee that had been cured. That has resulted in a gain of approximately Rs two lakhs and it is not intended that this should go to the profit of the plantations but should be devoted for specific research purposes, which were imminently necessary. I do not think I have got anything more to say. It is not the profit of the coffee houses and I am quite prepared to look into the question of coffee houses. I have never been to a coffee house in my life but I shall try to do it next time.

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Guntur cum Nellore Non-Muhammadan Rural): Is it a fact that this pool bears the loss sustained by the coffee industry, which has to sell coffee at a lower price to the U.K.C.C. and also the Defence Services?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Haque: I do not think that is correct in any case. It is not fair to ask a question regarding the U.K.C.C. in this connection.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: The question is with regard to the coffee pool

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: It has nothing to do with it. I explained that because of the duty which was imposed there was a certain stock which had been cured before, on which duty had been realised.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) The Honourable Member is too late in asking his question. He should have risen in his place at the proper time. He cannot make a speech after the Member in charge has replied to the debate.

The question is

"That the Bill further to amend the Coffee Market Expansion Act, 1942 (Second Amendment), be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 and 3 were added to the Bill.

Clause 1 was added to the Bill.

The Title and the Preamble were added to the Bill.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: Sir, I move

"That the Bill be passed."

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) The question is

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

THE DELHI JOINT WATER AND SEWAGE BOARD (AMENDMENT) BILL

Mr. J. D. Tyson (Secretary, Department of Education, Health and Land) Sir, I move

"That the Bill further to amend the Delhi Joint Water and Sewage Board Act, 1926, be taken into consideration."

The purpose of this short amending Bill is fully set out in the Statement of Objects and Reasons. I do not think the House will expect from me much further explanation. The present Bill seeks to amend the parent Act to allow of the inclusion of authorities like the Fort Notified Area Committee and the West Delhi Notified Area Committee among the constituent bodies, which are set out in section 2(c) of the parent act. We are anxious to have power to do this at once, because, as regards the Fort Notified Area Committee, they are already in receipt of water from the Board,—in all probability illegally,—and, as regards the West Delhi Notified Area (which is a recently constituted area and which includes the industrial area of New Delhi) it is becoming more and more urgent that water-supply should be made available to that area.

The second thing that the present Bill seeks to do is to take power to allow the Board to supply water by agreement to places which are under authorities which are not likely (because they are not urban authorities) to be brought within the list of constituent bodies. Already one area within Kilokri which is under the District Board, has been given water for good and sufficient reasons, but probably without any legal basis, and we may have another area in the near future, which may have to be given water for the same reason. And there are certain areas which are springing up outside the urban areas of Delhi under the District Board of Delhi, to whom it may be desirable to extend the facilities of the water-supply. We propose that that should be done by ad hoc agreement with persons interested in the locality.

The Bill is a simple measure designed to meet these two objects. Sir, I move

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) Motion moved.

"That the Bill further to amend the Delhi Joint Water and Sewage Board Act, 1926, be taken into consideration."

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait (West Coast and Nilgiris Muhammadan) To avoid waste of time on my motion I would like my Honourable friend to tell me why he wants to charge twice the usual rate when with the sanction of the Government the supply of water is extended to outside areas. When it is agreed that a particular area is to be supplied with pure water, I do not know why my Honourable friend should penalise them and charge them twice.

what he is charging the Delhi area. If he will explain that—I hope he has considered my amendment and that he agrees with the rate I have suggested in it.

Mr. J. D. Tyson: Sir, I confess there was not much basis for taking any particular figure. If the facility is extended outside the Delhi urban area, it is fair that the people who get it should pay at least as much for the water as the people within the urban area and we thought that twice what is called the "final issue rate" would be a fair basic figure, but it is a minimum figure that is being fixed here and it can all be arranged under the agreement. I am not disposed to quarrel with the amendment, and if he moves his amendment in due course, I shall not stand in his way.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan (Agra Division Muhammadan Rural) Sir, I want to make only a little suggestion on this. I have found sometimes that Bills of the kind just moved are brought forward, or sometimes a kind of Ordinance is passed at a time when the Assembly is not sitting, without consulting the people who are going to be affected. I would like the Government to keep in view that no Bill of any kind or law in the shape of an Ordinance should be passed without giving due consideration to the views of the people actually going to be affected by that Bill. Otherwise it all becomes quite one-sided. It may be that the committee or company supplying this water may like to have the charges increased, but the people who are going to be affected must be allowed to have their say. I do not find that this procedure has been adopted in the present case. I also find that a similar thing in the shape of an Ordinance was passed in the Delhi area, which has created a great deal of row in the whole city and a lot of litigation has started, and I would request the Honourable Member to advise the authorities concerned that before they send a proposal to any department of the Government of India for bringing up a Bill of this nature, where the public is going to be affected, they should consult all sides and not one side alone. There is the payee and there is the man who charges. Both sides should have their views put before the House. I have found that this principle is ignored in many cases, and in this case also there is no evidence that it has been complied with. Only yesterday I received a lot of complaints about this that the people were going to be very adversely affected. I would like my Honourable friend to say how far this procedure has been followed in this case because I know that in every Bill which is introduced here consultation is made when you ask for circulation the opinion of all sides is collected and placed before us, but in this Bill whether the people have had any say or not ought to be made clear before this House.

The Assembly then adjourned for lunch till Half Past Two of the Clock.

The Assembly re-assembled after lunch at Half Past Two of the Clock, Mr Deputy President (Mr Akhil Chandra Datta) in the Chair.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr Akhil Chandra Datta) The question is

"That the Bill further to amend the Delhi Joint Water and Sewage Board Act, 1926, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2, 3 and 4 were added to the Bill.

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Salt: Sir, I move

"That in clause 5, in the proposed second proviso to the proposed section 14A for the word 'twice' the words 'one and a half times' be substituted."

I need not detain the House long over this, because I explained the purport of this amendment when the motion for consideration was being discussed. My Honourable friend seemed inclined to accept this amendment because he said that this was limiting the minimum. That is true. The minimum provided in the clause is "twice the final issue rate payable." I want to reduce that so that if the Government wish to charge less than the minimum provided in the Act, they may do so. At the same time, I want my friend to meet the wishes of the House and see that except in very exceptional cases the

[Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait]

rates are not high, the idea being that pure and good water should be made available as cheaply as possible. Sir, I move

Mr. Deputy President (Mr Akhil Chandra Datta) Amendment moved

"That in clause 5, in the proposed second proviso to the proposed section 14A, for the word 'twice' the words 'one and a half times' be substituted."

Mr. J. D. Tyson: Though I cannot give any undertaking as to how individual cases will be met, I have no objection to this amendment. This will only arise in the cases where water is supplied under an agreement and each case will have to be taken on its merits.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr Akhil Chandra Datta) The question is

"That in clause 5, in the proposed second proviso to the proposed section 14A, for the word 'twice' the words 'one and a half times' be substituted."

The motion was adopted

Clause 5, as amended, was added to the Bill

Clause 6 was added to the Bill

Clause 1 was added to the Bill

The Title and the Preamble were added to the Bill

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I move

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

Mr. Deputy President (Mr Akhil Chandra Datta) The question is—

"That the Bill as amended, be passed."

The motion was adopted

THE PUBLIC DEBT (CENTRAL GOVERNMENT) BILL

Mr. Deputy President (Mr Akhil Chandra Datta) Sir Jeremy Raisman

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait (West Coast and Nilgiris Muhammadan) Sir, before my Honourable friend moves his motion, I have a point of order to raise. Under Standing Order 44 (1) (a) the report of the Select Committee has to be made available to the Members for 7 days. The Select Committee's report in connection with the motion that is now going to be moved was placed on the table on the 7th and it was circulated on the 8th evening. So for only 3 days the Members have been in possession of the Select Committee's report. Therefore, this motion which the Honourable Member is going to make contravenes this Standing Order. But if the House is inclined to waive the rule in his favour, I won't object provided some of us who have given notice of amendments this morning are also allowed to move our amendments, otherwise this motion will be unfair to the non-official Members.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman (Finance Member) Sir, if the House agrees to proceed with the Bill, I have no objection to the amendment which my Honourable friend wishes to put in.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir (Bombay City Non-Muhammadan Union) We have not got those amendments yet.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr Akhil Chandra Datta) In view of the opinion expressed by both Parties, I think the Standing Order in regard to the time limit may be waived and is waived.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Sir, I move

"That the Bill to consolidate and amend the law relating to Government securities issued by the Central Government and to the management by the Reserve Bank of India of the public debt of the Central Government, as reported by the Select Committee, be taken into consideration."

The Select Committee went carefully into the criticisms which had been elicited in the course of the circulation of the Bill and they came to the conclusion that very few amendments were necessary. In fact, most of the changes made in the Bill, as it now comes before the House or several of them, are merely corrections of printing errors. In clause 8 of the Bill there is a change of language owing to the criticism which was made of the phrase "a Government security held by two or more persons severally." It was decided that this was not perhaps appropriate language and instead of that the Select Committee went back to the language of the present Act which

speaks of a Government security payable to two or more persons severally. Then, a good deal of care was devoted to the question which so many critics raised in regard to clause 9, which was also a point to which my Honourable friend Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghami drew attention. It seemed to the Select Committee, and, if I may say so, quite rightly, that the criticism of this clause is based on a misapprehension. There was a feeling that unless more time is given for the production of probate or letters of administration or a succession certificate, hardship would be involved to the public. The exact opposite is the case. The position is that on the death of the holder of a security, unless you make provision for some fairly prompt decision, the small investor will not be able to draw the interest on his bond until he has gone through the processes of obtaining the probate or letters of administration or succession certificate. Now, the object of the Bill, as of the existing statute, is to provide relief for the small investor by enabling him to begin to draw the interest on his bond as soon as possible, and for that purpose I suggest this House should be more concerned to see that the period is not too long. During the period when the Reserve Bank does not make a summary adjudication of the matter, the small investor is suffering the hardship of being kept out of his money. Although at first sight it appears otherwise, the fact of the matter is that this provision actually works the other way and is intended to provide relief to the small investor. I may say in support of this that similar provisions have had to be made in other statutes, for instance, under section 8(1) of the Post Office-Cash Certificates Act 1917, and under section 4 of the Government Savings Bank Act. The time-limit in these cases is three months. I suggest that the period of six months is appropriate in the present case, that it should not be shortened and that certainly in the interests of the small investor it should not be increased.

Another clause which has attracted some attention is the clause providing for limitation. That is clause 21 of the Bill. The clause as originally framed, provided for the liability of the Central Government in respect of a Government security and of any interest due on it terminating on the expiry of six years from the date on which the amount due on the security or by way of interest became payable. There have been various criticisms of this provision, and it was suggested in some of the opinions, that there may be cases where the persons entitled to the payment of the security or the interest, would be unable to present their claims within six years. But after some discussion, the Select Committee decided to extend the period to 12 years, which they felt, should be ample for all purposes, and this period has been embodied in the Bill.

The only other point of substance is the one which my Honourable friend Mr. Krishnamachari, who served on the Select Committee has raised in his minute of dissent on clause 7 of the Bill. His contention is that a certain concession given to Hindus governed by the Mitakshara law which at present exists as a proviso to section 12 of the Indian Securities Act, 1920, should continue in their favour. Sir, the Committee felt that in preparing new legislation of a simplified and, may I say, of a more rational character, it was difficult to justify the provision of this somewhat unusual exception. I am no lawyer, but I understand that in certain other respects the law on the subject is the same as that which we embodied in the Bill. For instance, in all properly drawn Articles of Association of Joint Stock Companies, and again I believe in the Acts and Rules relating to the Reserve Bank Act and the Imperial Bank Act, the position there is that title is determined on the same basis as we propose to embody in this statute. Clause 7 seeks to provide that executors or administrators of a deceased sole holder of a Government security and the holder of a succession certificate issued under Part X of the Indian Succession Act, 1925, shall be the only persons who may be recognised by the Bank as having any title to the Government security. The members of the Hindu joint family governed by the Mitakshara law are already in this position in respect, as I understand, of the shares of Joint Stock Banks and such securities as the Reserve Bank shares or Imperial Bank shares. I have not been able to understand what injustice is involved or what hardship is

[Sir Jeremy Raistman]

caused in requiring members of such a family to undergo the same procedure when establishing title to a Government security. In fact, I am informed that they are actually in a better position than other classes because other classes have to pay probate fee when they seek to obtain a Probate or Letters of Administration, whereas by a ruling of the High Courts, in the case of *Hindu Joint family governed by the Mitakshara law*, no such probate fee is payable. They, therefore, are not only in a position to comply with the requirements of the Bill as easily as anybody else, but they actually enjoy the advantage that in producing the necessary documents, they are not liable to have to pay the fee which other members of the community would have to pay in order to obtain such a document. On general grounds, it was felt in the Select Committee that whatever might be the history of this curious exception, there was insufficient justification for, shall I say, disfiguring a simplifying measure with a rather long winded and complicated proviso relating to a special case of that kind. For these reasons, the Committee decided to adhere to the Bill as drafted. Sir, I move.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta) Motion moved.

'That the Bill to consolidate and amend the law relating to Government securities issued by the Central Government and to the management by the Reserve Bank of India of the public debt of the Central Government, as reported by the Select Committee, be taken into consideration.'

Mr. Sri Prakasa (Allahabad and Jhansi Divisions Non-Muhammadian Rural) Mr. Deputy President, Sir, I should like, with your permission, to begin with a word of apology. I have not been a frequent visitor of this House for the last four years, and I must confess that I have got rather out of practice, both with the art of speaking in this House and with the procedure that has to be followed. If I make any mistakes, you, Sir, with your usual generosity will pardon me, and so will, I have no doubt, the Honourable the Finance Member who is in charge of this Bill.

Sir, in our country, the executive being the *de facto* legislature also, all laws seem to me at least to be enacted with a view to making the task of the Government and its officers as easy, and the work of the general public as difficult and complicated as possible. I have not to go far for an illustration. The Honourable the Finance Member himself has just said that a very necessary—it appears to me to be very necessary because it touches me personally and it touches the habits of many people in our country—a very necessary amendment to one of the sections, with which I shall presently deal, would involve a very complicated process. He thinks the language of the proposed proviso would be very complicated. He wants a simple Act, but he forgets that when he is saving himself from a complication, he is introducing a lot of complication in the lives of millions of people in our land. I would rather have a complicated law—and, as a matter of fact, all laws are complicated—and as a result thereof have a simple process of life for the general mass of the people, than have a simple law which creates a lot of confusion in our lives outside. It is no doubt a very simple rule that the Government can imprison anybody it likes for an indefinite period of time. The old Rule 26 of the Defence of India Act, used to be only of about eight or ten words, and it got so mixed up with the other rules of the Act that nobody knew about it at all, till everybody was being caught and imprisoned without charge, without trial for the end of time. Therefore, I would rather have a complicated or complex set of words here which simplifies our lives outside than have a very simple law here which makes our lives not worth living outside.

Now, Sir, there are three points on which I should like to draw the attention of the Honourable the Finance Member and the House generally in connection with this Bill. I have no doubt my Honourable friends from all sides of the House will assail this Bill in various other parts. But I want to concentrate on just these three. I want to draw the attention of the House to

begin with to clause 6 that deals with trusts. Trusts are facts and trusts are created by charitable persons for charitable purposes. They 3 P.M., are in the nature of corporations such as societies registered under Act XXI of 1860. But trustees seem to be driven from pillar to post whenever they want to invest their money in safe securities and see that no harm comes to themselves or to their trusts. They are anxious to fulfil the objects of the trust but at every step trustees are troubled by one law or another. I happen to be a trustee of two trusts, one for educational purposes and the other for the care of widows and orphans. Both these trusts were created by charitably disposed persons who thought that creating these trusts would be the best way of fulfilling the objects which they had in view. I had very strange experiences in the matter of investing the money of these trusts. In the educational trust we had, as a part of its property, Government securities of the face value of one lakh of rupees. For urgent purposes we had to sell this paper. Because of various troubles we had already experienced, we also, on the advice of lawyers, turned ourselves into a charitable society under Act XXI of 1860. But the name 'trust' still stuck to us, and after all the transactions were completed, the final payments were refused. The papers were hung up and there were urgent telegrams to me from Bombay and elsewhere to expedite matters, otherwise various penalties were in store for me. Sir, if I had not happened to know the then Governor of the Reserve Bank, Sir James Taylor personally,—whose premature death I mourned as much as any other friend of his could have done,—and if I had not worked with him as representative of this Assembly in the first Central Board of the Reserve Bank, I do not think I could have got out of the mess. Sir James Taylor came to my rescue and expedited matters and I got the money. If you go to the Imperial Bank and want to deposit your money as a trust, they say they recognise no trusts. I do not see what harm there is in recognising a trust. If it is a valid trust, if it functions properly, if it has got an office, a Secretary and President and other functionaries, where is the harm in the bank recognising a trust?

Sir, I have had similar experiences with the other trust also the trust which holds properties for the welfare of widows and orphans. Lawyers advised us in that case also to transform ourselves into a charitable society under Act XXI of 1860. We did that, but still we met with a lot of difficulty whenever we wanted to buy or sell securities or to make other transactions in the interests of the trust. I hope, therefore, that my Honourable friend opposite will accept my amendment of which I have given notice only today and for the admission of which I must thank my Honourable friend Mr. Esak Sait. I had almost feared that the amendment would be ruled out of order for want of sufficient notice. I hope my Honourable friend will accept my amendment, and if he thinks the language is not clear—I must say I am no draftsman—he may suggest changes in the language, so that valid trusts, trusts which are on a par with charitable societies, might be accepted as corporations within the compass of this Bill so that trustees may not have any difficulty and that a whole horde of trustees may not be required every time to walk up and down to put their signatures severally before they can complete a transaction. I do hope I am clear in my meaning, and that the Honourable Member opposite will concur in the rescue of trusts in the manner suggested.

Then, Sir, my Honourable friend was at pains to tell us that clause 7 should stand as it is. He does not see why particular people with particular methods of life should have any particular privileges. When it comes to the taking of income-tax, he is not prepared to recognise every adult member of a joint Hindu family as a separate entity. In that matter, I am sorry to say that assurances given on the floor of this House when the amendment of the Income-tax Act was being discussed are not being given effect to. The Income-tax Department is taking unfair advantage of a ruling of a High Court—and Courts do not recognise assurances given in this House and go only by the letter of the law—and are not giving such facilities for the recognition of

[Mr Sri Prakasa]

separation in an undivided Hindu family for purposes of assessment of income-tax, as was assured to us in this House when I moved an amendment on this subject, by no less a person than the then Law Member Sir Nripendra Sircar. Now, Sir, when it comes to taking, no privileges are to be given, no special customs are to be recognised, and similarly in this case also they want that holders of Government securities, on behalf of undivided Hindu families, should also be regarded as individuals, and they must also undergo various processes before they can safely get those Government securities transferred to the rightful owners.

Now, Sir, the Honourable Member knows very well that in an undivided Hindu family governed by the Mitakshara law, we become proprietors by the very fact of birth. We with our brothers, cousins, fathers, uncles, etc. hold the property from our very birth as a joint concern as coparceners. We are joint holders from the start, and when a special provision is being made in section (a) for the right of survivors of joint holders and several payees I do not see any reason why Government is not accepting the joint holdership of joint Hindu families governed by the Mitakshara law, and agreeing that the survivor is to get the Government security *ipso facto* after the person in whose name they were held passes away. Sir, I really have very little hesitation, as you and the House knows, to say the exact facts on every situation. I have not much pinder about me and I call a spade a spade and do not mind being charged with indecency or vulgarity. What happens in such cases is this. When a poor old man in whose name Government securities are held, is on his death-bed, all the persons concerned—sons, consins and others—who have a right to these securities after the dear one has departed, gather round him, and in his shaky hands thrust pens and make him sign his name in the brackets on the back of these Government securities, so that all the annoying legal formalities may be avoided later. In the Mitakshara Hindu families at least we were saved from this horror of having to force our dying parents to sign these forms before the end, lest there should be any difficulty afterwards. The processes of taking a probate and letters of administration are lengthy and expensive, and the system of transfer of Government securities is a fairly simple one because naturally the Government have made it very simple for itself. I say, Sir, that the Honourable Member opposite should save large masses of people in our country from the degradation, the humiliation and the vulgarity of forcing dying parents to sign these Government securities in order to avoid various formalities afterwards. I therefore think, Sir, that my Honourable friend opposite will accede to the general request of this House,—for I find there are amendments to this effect from various persons, and let the undivided Hindu families enjoy the right that they have done so far. I am very glad to see my Honourable friend, Mr. Baijnath Bajaria in the House. I was sorry he was not here when I began. That is the one point on which he and I stand on common ground—the support and preservation of the joint Hindu family. On all other points, I fear, we disagree, and I am sure this particular amendment will find even a greater champion in my friend there than in me.

The third point that I want to deal with is with reference to section 24. Section 24 seeks to put a limit of 12 years within which payment shall be made of capital and interest on Government securities. After that, I take it, the Government securities lapse. I think one of the most shameful things that have been introduced in our country by its foreign masters is this—hateful law of limitation. When a man has taken something from another, it is up to him to pay it; but as the law is, the debtor starts counting from the very first day that he signs his promissory note and wishes that three years may elapse somehow and the creditor may forget about the debt before then so that the payment may lapse. This law has made an otherwise honest people exceedingly dishonest, and it has given rise to an amount of litigation, which is terrible to behold. Now, Sir, the Government also want to eat up the money that it has borrowed under the cover of this law. We know that not all

investments in Government securities are necessarily voluntary. Those who know how war funds are collected, those who know how people are forced to pay, will agree with me when I say that the securities purchased are not always in the nature of voluntary transactions; but I do not say that heaps and heaps of crores out of the seventeen or eighteen hundred crores that the Government have gathered as securities or promissory notes, are not in the nature of voluntary transactions. When the Government has got this money—and means to be honest about it—why is it anxious to refuse payment in case 12 years happen to elapse before the demand for it is made? I think that it is very necessary that this period of limitation should be extended to a very great extent or this section deleted completely in view of other provisions in this Bill.

There is at present the necessity of taking a probate or letters of administration, and all that is bound to take a lot of time. Even when in some cases, as the Honourable the Finance Member pointed out, there are no stamp duties to pay, there would still be lawyers' fees to pay. No law has yet been made—and I should welcome the day when such a law is enacted—that lawyers' services shall be placed at our disposal free of all cost. Till then, we have to take into consideration not only the expenditure that is actually mentioned as legal expenditure on stamp duties and other things, but you have also to take into consideration the lawyers' fees which is very often far in excess of the prescribed fees, and you must not forget the actual payments made to various chaprasis, and clerks and other persons before you are through with a case. Sir, I think, law—if it is a decent law—should be able to save the general public from such exactions. My proposal is that instead of 12 years, a period of 60 years should be the limitation. If for 60 years, namely for two generations, no claim is made, then the Government may cut up the money it likes. I should like the Government honestly to fork out the money even then and find out the successors itself, but if it is very anxious to make profits in underhand ways—it is already making a lot of profit by eating up unclaimed balances in post offices, where I understand it holds about 12 crores of such money—it should at least give a longer lease of life to the holders of securities and their successors.

I should also like to say another thing in this connection. Joint families with their many advantages have one great disadvantage from which many of my friends, including Mr. Bajona despite his lynx eyes, could not be free. There is a great amount of secretiveness among the various members of the family. A member does not want another member to know exactly how his personal accounts stand lest there should be any difficulties of a domestic nature. If a member of a joint family—I take it from the smile of the Honourable the Law Member that he knows this very well—has some securities which he or she had been secretizing,—‘she’ even more than ‘he’—and he or she dies without leaving any instructions—it may be that on his or her deathbed there were too many people about him or her to enable her to leave instructions behind—and if these securities are discovered in some box after many many years—may be after 12 years—as ornaments and cash are very often discovered—then Government should, I think, not refuse to pay money because a claim is being made after the lapse of 12 years. But if Government agrees to make it 60, namely when all possible persons who could have known this particular individual who had these securities have in the nature of things passed away, then it does not matter if the Government takes the money because it would then break no heart. I therefore think, Sir, that I should press these three matters before the House and I should like the Honourable the Finance Member, with the immense power that he possesses, to look at this problem sympathetically. If he really understands and appreciates the actual system of life in which we in India live, if he does not for the purposes of legislation believe that people in India live the same individualistic lives as he and his own countrymen do; if he realises that he is legislating for a people with customs and manners different to his, and that those customs and manners have come through the centuries and that have to be respected whether he likes them or not; if he realises the strength of the feeling in the land on

[**Mr. Sri Prakasa**]

such social and semi-religious matters, I am sure, Sir, he will not refuse to think along the lines I have ventured to lay down and will accept suitable amendments to these three sections which I have discussed before the House.

I want him first of all to accept and recognise Trusts as actual facts of our lives, as charitable institutions created by charitable and generous hearted persons for the public good, and to see to it that Trusts are able to invest their money in safe securities and draw their interest on these monies at reasonable intervals in a reasonable manner, and that the bank and all banks—and by the bank I mean the Reserve Bank as mentioned in this Act—recognise Trusts in the same manner as they recognise charitable institutions. Then I want him, and all Members of this House, to give a little thought to the conditions of undivided Hindu families. I shall be told that no exception can be made for one set of people and that they must also undergo the same difficulties as all other persons have to. But first of all, it is not necessarily right to add disabilities on a particular set of persons simply because other persons do not enjoy the same facilities. Then, Sir, the numbers affected are very large and that also should be taken into consideration. I should be glad if similar facilities are given to all persons. I do not like these letters of administration. I do not like the necessity for taking out probate and things of that sort. These were not known to us before and I should like all communities to be saved from these difficulties. But if they cannot be for some reason or other, at least those that had been safe so far should continue to be safe in future also. I should say one thing more. If a small privilege is being asked for the undivided Hindu Mitakshara family, we must not forget that there are a number of disabilities also from which they suffer. For instance, in the Dayabaga School of Hindu Law, the man who possesses the property is, if I am not mistaken, the absolute holder of that property. His sons, his cousins, his brothers cannot come and stop him from spending money in a manner which these people do not like, but in Mitakshara families we can hold up the hands of the father or the head of the family, the Karta, and prevent him from spending money in the way he likes. If the younger folk think that he is not spending it in the proper way he can be prevented from doing so, and that is why it is said that the Dayabaga son bends far more before his Dayabaga father than the Mitakshara son before his Mitakshara father. The Dayabaga father has absolute right over his property, but the Mitakshara father has not. Therefore it is not true, as my Honourable friend the Finance Member, tried to make out—and I am sorry that he is not attentive to what I am saying.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Ransman: Yes, I am.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: It is not true that a special privilege is being given to the Mitakshara families, without any attendant disabilities. I therefore think, Sir, that he should be considerate to these Mitakshara people, and not force them to undergo the processes which he is forcing on other people who enjoy far more privileges in other directions than the Mitakshara karta of the family does.

Lastly, I once more repeat, that in all honesty he should increase the period of limitation and not try to swallow up money only because it is not claimed for 12 years. In Bihar which perhaps is our most litigious province.

Mr. Satya Narayan Sinha (Darbhanga *cum* Saran Non-Muhammadian) Question!

Mr. Sri Prakasa: I do not think the truth of what I say can be questioned. I have something to do with Bihar, being married there.

Patna, the capital of Bihar, is now a town of only lawyers who have enriched themselves at the expense of the children of the soil, and if the Honourable the Leader of the House were here, he certainly would not have questioned what I am saying. In Bihar very often a case takes twenty years and more to finish in between of course not only Sultan Manzils but many more manzils arise in Patna. A little objection is made on a little point and the person concerned goes

on fighting from court to court and would not stop till he has got the judgment of the Privy Council for or against him. That takes twelve years. Then another point arises which takes another 12 years and so on. In the meantime my Honourable friend may eat up the government securities. Therefore, I say, Sir, that the period of limitation should be extended to sixty years, if he is not prepared to abolish the period of limitation altogether. Sixty years is not too long. In the U. P., for instance, if I am not mistaken, limitation does not run against zamindars in certain matters for sixty years. In any case, I feel that at least in this matter a similar provision may be made so that we may be saved from possible losses.

Sir, I appeal for the support of all sections of this House. The misfortune is that very often different sections of the House seem to feel that as a particular matter does not concern their particular community, therefore they need not worry about it. I think this is wrong in principle. Every part must help every other part. The whole must support the part, the part must support the whole. We all really belong to one community. Even in matters of social legislation, I am always surprised why members of one community are asked not to speak or bother about any Bill or piece of legislation that affects some other community. Why should I not bother? They are our brothers. They are our people. Anything that affects them will affect us. Anything they do inevitably reacts upon us, and therefore each part must support every other part. If Honourable Members think that in making a vigorous plea for the Hindu undivided Mitakshara family I have only dealt with a part of the community, I beg them not to think so, but to feel that in supporting that part they are really supporting the whole, and they are inviting that part to support other parts when their turn comes. Let us not forget, Government is going to eat us all part by part, and it is in its interests to put one part against another, to put one community against another community, to put the Dayabhagas against the Mitaksharas. The Government gains in the end. When anything affects the Dayabhaga man, the Mitakshara man must sympathise with him, otherwise we shall be enriching and helping the Government at every stage, while we will be harming ourselves part by part. Therefore, I say, Sir, I commend my opposition to this measure, to the various sections of the House, and I commend my amendments to the unanimous approval of the House. If we must have a measure, let us have a decent measure, worthy of us and of our Statute Book.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar (Salem and Coimbatore *cum* North Arcot Non-Muhammadian Rural). This is not such an innocent measure as it seems. Neither can it claim that it merely codifies the existing law and merely makes an enactment for the Centre where there is an enactment for both the Provinces and the Centre together. If I may say so, it vitally affects the existing rights of the people and you must consider this against this background. There was a time when government securities were held by only the industrialists, by the rich people and by the mill-owners. But today it is the common holding of the common man. People have been forced to purchase government bonds, whatever the amount may be and so a measure like this affects the common man in the street, in the town and in the village and so it is ~~up to~~ us to see that his rights are not affected. Remember he is not an educated man and he does not know the law and so we should see at least that the existing law is preserved and that no inroads are made against it.

In my opinion the most important clause in this Bill which affects the existing rights of government security holders is clause 24. May I, Sir, read to you section 18 of the present Act, that is the Indian Securities Act 1920, which is the law today. According to that there is no limitation for the principal amount of a government security. Any number of years may pass but "save as otherwise provided in the Act on payment of the amount due on a Government security on or after the date on which payment becomes due, or when a duplicate security has been issued under section 10 or when a renewed security has been issued, the Government shall be discharged from all liability in respect of the security or securities so paid or in place of which a duplicate, renewed, or new security or securities has or have been issued". But when there is no payment

[Mr T S Avinashlingam Chettiar]—made in any way whatever, there is no discharge of the liability of the Government and the liability still ensues after a number of years. Under the law as it is today there is no limitation for the holding of a government security. There is limitation only as regards interest as is shown in section 18 (a) of this Act. But today the Government comes with provisions in this Bill and says that this liability shall be confined to 12 years. Even the Limitation Act in Article 60 says

"For money deposited under an agreement that it shall be payable on demand, including money of a customer in the hands of his banker so payable."

Where there is a deposit in the hands of a particular banker, if it is not claimed, then how does limitation arise? The limitation arises only 3 years after the demand is made. If I do not make the demand there is no limitation. If I make the demand after 25 years, it is limited within three years after the 25 years. Under the existing Limitation Act, in the case of a deposit, the limitation runs only 3 years after the demand is made, and virtually, and essentially government securities are in the nature of deposits. They are made as deposits for the future well-being of the people, and today it is proposed to change the entire law on the subject and to say that within 12 years not only will the interest be affected but also the principal—if the Members here will note it, it says—

"Where no shorter period of limitation is fixed by any law for the time being in force, the liability of the Central Government in respect of a Government security and of any interest payment due on it shall terminate on the expiry of twelve years from the date, on which the amount due on the security or due by way of interest on the security, as the case may be, became payable."

That is, against the principal itself there is a limitation of 12 years sought to be placed under this clause. So this Bill is really not so innocent as it looks. It affects the existing rights of the people and the rights of thousands and lakhs of people throughout the country, and this House should consider this matter before passing this Bill as it is.

Now, I would not like to labour the point on which Mr Sri Prakasa dwelt exhaustively, about the Mitakshara family, but I shall point out the law. I refer to section 211 (2) of the Indian Succession Act. Mulla in his Hindu Law says—(page 440)—section 375 (2)—

"Where a Hindu dies intestate, it is not necessary in any case to obtain letters of administration to the estate of the deceased to establish a right to any part of the property of the deceased."

And he continues—

"No probate or letters of administration can be granted in respect of joint family property."

Why? Because the property is already vested in him. He already shares the property and so there is no probate necessary to vest him with the joint family property. Following this up, section 211(2) of the Indian Succession Act says

"When the deceased was a Hindu, Muhammadan, Buddhist, Sikh or Jaina or an exempted person, nothing herein contained shall vest in an executor or administrator any property of the deceased person which would otherwise have passed by survivorship to some other person."

Where it would have passed by survivorship, it is not necessary for probate or succession certificate to be taken out at all. That is the law as it obtains today. It is not only the general law, but also as contained in section 12 of the Indian Securities Act which is the existing law on this matter. It is the existing law for Government securities. Section 12 of the Indian Securities Act of 1920 says—

"Subject to the provisions of section 13, a person claiming to be entitled to a Government promissory note, may, on applying to the prescribed authority, and on satisfying it of the justice of his claim and delivering the promissory note received in the prescribed manner—

Provided that, when application is made for the renewal of a Government promissory note which appears to the prescribed authority to stand in the name of a deceased member of a Hindu undivided family governed by the Mitakshara law a renewed promissory note shall not be issued to the applicant unless he furnishes a certificate signed by such authority, and after such inquiry as may be prescribed to the effect that the deceased belonged

to a Hindu undivided family governed by the Mitakshara law, that the promissory note formed part of the joint property of the family, and that the applicant is the managing or sole surviving male member of the family."

So, the existing Hindu law, the law as set out in the Succession Act, and the existing law under the Indian Securities Act all say that a succession certificate is not necessary for a member of a Mitakshara joint Hindu family. If that is the case, may I know what is the reason for the Government coming forward with an amendment like this? I think that in a matter like this, the Government would be wise if they codified the existing law, leaving existing rights untouched, and enact a law which presents the law as it exists today. I do not think the Government will be wise in curtailing people's rights in a matter like this.

These are the two important matters which I thought should be raised in this House. Amendments have been tabled and may I suggest to the Finance Member that he will be serving the interests of the people of this country if he does not seek to impose a limitation which did not exist before and also if he supports the existing rights of the people in so far as they do not conflict with the existing laws of the country.

Maulvi Syed Murtaza Sahib Bahadur (South Madras Muhammadan) Mr Deputy President, but for the fact that some doubt was entertained by my Honourable friend, Mr Sri Prakasa, that we would not make common cause with our Hindu brethren in espousing causes like this, I would not have participated in this debate. I may assure the House that we will not be the last to come forward to support any reasonable or any charitable cause which may be advocated by others. So far as the question before the House is concerned, though the joint family system does not exist among the Muslims and though the limitation question will not at all be tolerated by us,—I may in this connection inform the House that even the limitation of sixty years is not recognised by Islam as there is no limitation whatever so far as our religion is concerned, it is under the compulsion of this Government that we have been subjected to such limitations—not to speak of 12 years or 3 years, and we have no other go but to submit ourselves to such laws as are enacted and are being enacted by this House under this foreign and irresponsible Government. I may assure my old friend, Mr Sri Prakasa, who I know is a gentleman of cosmopolitan views, that we also hold the same views as he. Therefore we would wholeheartedly support the amendment proposed by our Honourable friend and supported by another Honourable friend of my province, I mean Mr Avinashlingam Chettiar.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani (Tirhut Division Muhammadan) Sir, on the last occasion when the Bill was being circulated, I made certain suggestions, and I was assured that those suggestions would be considered in the Select Committee. I find that excepting one opinion almost all the opinions have supported those suggestions of mine, particularly about the period of six months in clause 9. You know, Sir, that when a party applies for succession certificate or probate, the civil courts are too busy and their procedure is protracted and lengthy, and if there is any delay, beyond the control of the party concerned, in securing the new certificate of succession, for no fault of his he will be penalised, as the clause of the Bill stands. All the opinions support this and I hope the Honourable Member in charge of the Bill will consider this question and that the amendment tabled to this effect will be accepted by him.

As regards trusts, I want to say a word. The provision says that trusts will not be taken into consideration but sub-clause (2) of clause 6 says

"With out prejudice to the provisions of subsection (1), the Bank may, as an act of grace and without any liability to the Bank or to the Central Government, record in its books such directions by the holder of stock for the payment of interest, etc."

There are many charitable institutions and religious institutions which have purchased Government securities. In case this provision is passed into law, what will be the fate of those charitable institutions? I think there is no harm in giving this facility and right to the charitable and religious institutions which are in possession of securities, because such securities as are held by the charitable institutions are always in the name of the institution. No person can

[Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani]

claim as the owner or proprietor of that security. So there will be difficulty, and opinions have come supporting this view that the trusts should not be beyond the scope of this Bill.

As regards clause 10, it is said there that the "Bank may make such order as it thinks fit for the vesting of such security or securities in such person as it considers represents the minor or insane person". This provision is about minors and insane persons. They are quite helpless in putting forward their claims and there are many dangers that their rights may be usurped by some interested persons. Therefore some sufficient safeguard should be provided in the Act. It may be said that under the rule-making powers of clause 28 some adequate safeguard will be made in the matter. But after all, rules are rules and they cannot have the force of law. I think an amendment has also been tabled in this respect and I hope that the Honourable Member in charge will kindly consider and see his way to accept that amendment.

In clause 12 also, there is a provision for a period of notice of six months. This period is quite inadequate and should be raised to one year.

When I come to clause 17 I find that the notice required to be given by the Bank may be served by post. My friend here tells me that this is covered by the General Clauses Act, so, I leave it there.

Then as regards the right to administer the oath, there is no exception provided. Section 6 of the Indian Oaths Act makes some exception in the matter of administering and taking oaths. It says

"Where the witness, interpreter or juror is a Hindu or a Muhammadan or has an objection to making an oath he shall instead of making an oath, make an affirmation."

So, it is not obligatory under the Indian Oaths Act for the Hindus and Muslims to take oath. The only thing they have to do is to make the affirmation. I think this point should be clarified when the time comes.

As regards clause 28, this provision about laying the rules framed under the Act on the table of this Legislature has been accepted. In this case, the rules should be laid before the House in the next Session. With these observations, I resume my seat.

Mr. Hoosenbhoy A. Laljee (Bombay Central Division, Muhammadan Rural). After the Bill has come from the Select Committee and the amendments before us, I do feel that many important matters have been made clear but still I wish to say one or two things. The Honourable the Finance Member assured us that clauses 8 and 9 are really for the benefit of the poor. But I do feel that nowadays—and it will be for some time—poor people, after death in the family, will not be able to realise the responsibility of getting what the deceased was worth within the period of six months. This period is not adequate and I hope that the amendment proposed by my friend Mr. Chettiar raising the period to one year will be accepted.

Then another thing to which I really feel I ought to draw the attention of my Honourable friend the Finance Member is this. As I said the other day, I do want that the taking of evidence must be done by some responsible people. While advocating the appointment of responsible people, I made it clear that I

4 P.M. would be only too glad to have Government officials and not because, as my Honourable friend put it, some people are really admiring the services of the Government servants. I said then, and it was not admitted by my Honourable friend at that time, that the actions of the Government officials are always subject to be discussed in this House.

Then, the authority is being given to the Bank. I do not know what is meant by the Bank; whether it is the Managing Governor or Deputies or is the Directors of the Bank that is meant. Anyway, it is the responsibility of the Finance Member, who puts the responsibility on the Bank, to find out the responsible person or party who will make the appointment of an officer, further although the Bank has been authorised to appoint an officer to take evidence and to make a vesting order, no qualifications of that officer have been laid down anywhere. He will be appointed at the sweet-will of the Directors of the Bank. My Honourable friend has taken so much trouble

to lay down in clause 14 that "a District Magistrate so requested may himself record, or may direct any Magistrate of the first class subordinate to him or any Magistrate of the second class subordinate to him and empowered in this behalf by general or special order of the Provincial Government." If the Government has to take only evidence, he must be either the District Magistrate or the first class subordinate Judge and the second class subordinate Judge if he is so authorised. This is what the Government does when things are carried on by it which is subject to the approval of this House or subject to criticism of this House. But so far as the Bank is concerned, my Honourable friend does not make any provision. I do not know what is this Bank, and who are these great persons who are going to appoint this officer to take evidence and make a vesting order. It is this very officer, who is entitled, if he thinks fit, will work as a District Magistrate in order to take evidence, and still no qualifications are laid down for him, this is my point. Is this consistent with the safety of the public? How can you leave the public moneys in the hands of an officer of a Bank, which is not really the Government Department and whose affairs you cannot discuss here? Nor can you discuss the attitude of this officer of the Bank. It has not been mentioned even whether this gentleman's pay will be in the neighbourhood of Rs. 500 or Rs. 1,000. The Directors may choose a poor man like myself and appoint me and I may do whatever I may like. It comes to this.

When I said the other day that I would like to have a Government official, my Honourable friend the Finance Member said "My friend Mr. Lalljee wants a Government official." My object was that if a Government official was appointed, then, howsoever low paid he may be or low position he may have in services, his actions we can criticise here and ask the Honourable the Finance Member to tell us about his responsibilities. But with regard to the officer that is contemplated here, we cannot do anything nor do we know what powers were and are going to be given to him, by the Directors.

Then, Sir, I quite agree with the amendment that has been tabled with regard to clause 24 in which a period of 12 years has been provided for. I entirely agree with the remarks that have fallen from my friend Mr. Sri Prakasa. Nowadays people subscribe to Government loans liberally and handsomely. Government should not tell them that for the sake of the adjustment of the accounts or for the little trouble that the Reserve Bank will have in making out the accounts, they are putting a time-limit of six or twelve years. This is not fair, this is not businesslike, this is not diplomatic. Once people come to know that for some reason or other there is going to be a limitation, the great question will arise with regard to investing in the loans. Therefore, it is not proper that any limitation should be fixed, and I seriously draw attention also to this point.

With regard to the question of trust, I entirely agree with my friend Mr. Sri Prakasa. In fact, I had a bitter experience of it. We had to go to the High Court and we know what trouble we had. Furthermore, who has to decide as to all kinds of title to the property? My friend has only spoken about Patna, but here is a gentleman standing before you who has been dragged in the courts by clever lawyers for more than 24 years, and the cases are still going on and new ones are being created. I do not know how long I will be in the hands of this great lawyer community. I hope they do not claim to be as noble a community as the doctors. They do come to us often, but only for our goods. That is all I can say. Let me tell one thing to my friend Mr. Griffiths. It is the definite opinion of many people that, in the first instance, it was the policy of some people to give education of the type which would make young and intelligent Indians good clerks. Then came a further policy, that this intelligentsia may agitate and trouble the Government. Therefore, the law courts and the procedure that has been adopted were introduced. These lawyers could do a lot for the country, but unfortunately that is not the case. I hope they will not misunderstand me and I hope they will come to afford help to me for my good and not for my goods!

There is one thing more that I want to say. I do want the Honourable the Finance Member to consider the position so far as the succession certificates are

[Mr Hoosembhoy A Lalljee] concerned I think so far as the Muslims are concerned, they are also excluded. **Mr. D. P. Sethna** (Government of India Nominated Official) They are not.

Mr. Hoosembhoy A. Lalljee: But there is no necessity for them to take out the probate duty. Of course, I am not a lawyer but I do want the protection of the Honourable the Finance Member to make it clear that nothing in indirect form in the shape of the probate duty will have to be paid by the Muslims. Now is the time for you to assure the public that in buying the Government securities they are going to buy negotiable and marketable securities without incurring other liabilities. I hope the Honourable the Finance Member will kindly take into serious consideration what I have said and all the amendments that have been put before the House.

Mr. D. P. Sethna: Sir, I do not wish to take up much time of the House, but I do wish to say thus at the outset that if the Honourable Members had read the opinions which had been received when the Bill was circulated to the country, they would have seen that the principles underlying the Bill have been approved of by the Governor of the North-West Frontier Province, the Government of Madras, the High Court of Madras, the Advocate-General, Madras, the Indian Bank Limited, Madras, the Exchange Banks Association, Bombay, the Imperial Bank of India, Bombay, the Karachi Indian Merchants Association, the Maharashtra Chamber of Commerce, the Chief Commissioner, the District Judge and the Munsifs of the Court of Coorg and the Bar Association of Coorg, the Government of the Central Provinces, the District and Sessions Judge, Delhi, the Secretaries, Punjab Chamber of Commerce, New Delhi, the Government of the Punjab, Justice Muncer of the Lahore High Court, the Deputy Commissioner, Lahore and many other institutions, persons and associations.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr Akhil Chandra Datta) Order, order. I am told that the Honourable Member is not in his proper seat.

Mr. D. P. Sethna: Sir, this is my seat for the purpose of this debate.

Sir George Spence (Secretary, Legislative Department) Sir, for the purpose of this debate the seats of Mr Sethna and myself have been changed. Under the arrangement which now prevails seats in the Government block are arranged by Government, and I have given the usual intimation that during this debate Mr Sethna's seat and my seat will be changed and that Mr Sethna will occupy my place.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta) Now that the position has been explained, the Honourable Member may go on.

Mr. D. P. Sethna: Sir, I do not wish to say much at present on the clauses because they will be considered by this House when the time comes, but as regards, the two or three points made by Mr Sri Prakasa and Mr Chettiar, particularly as regards clause 7 on which there are half a dozen amendments, I wish to say something.

The first point raised by Mr Sri Prakasa was about trusts. I suppose he is aware that under section 3 of the existing law, it has been provided as follows:

"Save as otherwise provided in or under this Act no notice of any trust in respect of any Government security shall be receivable by the Government."

In the present Bill a further step has been taken and a concession has been given in that it has been provided that—

"Without prejudice to the provisions of sub-section (1), the bank may, as an act of grace and without any liability to the Bank or to the Central Government, record in its books such directions by the holder of stock for the payment of interest on, or of the maturity value of, or the transfer of, or such other matters relating to, the stock as the Bank thinks fit."

Sub-clause (e) of clause 28 provides that rules shall be made for—

"the holding of Government securities in the form of stock by the holders of offices other than public officers, and the manner in which and the conditions subject to which Government securities so held may be transferred."

There is therefore no point in the complaint that trusts are not recognised under the present Bill, when the present law definitely is that no trusts are to be recognised and the Bill as framed gives an extra concession.

As regards clause 7 on which so many amendments have been tabled, this clause follows the provisions of the rules laid down as regards the Imperial Bank shares, the Reserve Bank shares and the shares of every company in which the solicitors know how to draft the articles of association of the company. It is the commonest form to use in the articles of association of a company. And the reason is obvious, viz. that the company does not wish to go into complicated questions of succession or survivorship when the sole holder of a share dies. I submit it ought to be the same as regards Government securities. Why should Government or the Reserve Bank as agents of Government be asked to investigate into questions of succession and survivorship? The ordinary procedure is that a man, if he wants to prove his title, has to produce a probate or letters of administration or a succession certificate. Mr Laljee stated that if a Muhammadan dies would his heirs be bound to produce a succession certificate? Undoubtedly, Sir. What is the alternative suggested? If a Muhammadan sole holder of Government security dies leaving a lakh of rupees worth of securities and there are 20 claimants to it, whom is the Reserve Bank going to recognise? Suppose there are ten sons, why should one son be preferred by the Reserve Bank to the other? The reason is obvious. As to the complaint that a concession given to Hindus governed by the Mitakshara law is being taken away by this clause, I wish to say that the proviso to section 12 of the Indian Securities Act has been put in, I submit, rather illogically and quite inconsequentially in a section which dealt with the renewal of promissory notes. The section reads thus:

"Subject to the provisions of section 13, a person claiming to be entitled to a Government promissory note, may, on applying to the prescribed authority, and on satisfying it of the justice of his claim and delivering the promissory note receipted in the prescribed manner, and paying the prescribed fee, if any, obtain from such authority a renewed promissory note payable to him."

You will see that there is no question here of the death of a single holder who held promissory notes. Then the proviso says

"Provided that, when application is made for the renewal of a Government promissory note which appears to the prescribed authority to stand in the name of a deceased member of a Hindu undivided family governed by the Mitakshara law, a renewed promissory note shall not be issued to the applicant unless he furnishes a certificate signed by such authority and after such inquiry as may be prescribed to the effect that the deceased belonged to a Hindu undivided family governed by the Mitakshara law, that the promissory note formed part of the joint property of the family, and that the applicant is the managing or sole surviving male member of the family."

Rule 21 provides that the certificate shall be given by a District Magistrate. The present clause 7 provides that the executors or administrators of a deceased sole holder of a Government security and the holder of a succession certificate shall be the only persons who may be recognised by the Bank as having any title to the Government security.

This, Sir, is a comprehensive Bill intending to codify the existing law and dealing not only with Government promissory notes but with all types of Government security including stock. I submit there is no prejudice in asking a member of a joint Hindu family to obtain instead of a District Magistrate's certificate a succession certificate from the proper civil court.

In this connection, Sir, I will read to the House a few paragraphs from the head note of a case reported in 1042 All-India Reports and decided by a Full Bench of the Lahore High Court only a couple of years ago. The case related to the shares in a Bank, the Imperial Bank and the Reserve Bank, purchased with the funds of a joint Hindu family and this is what the learned Judges said:

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari (Tanjore cum Trichinopoly. Non-Muhammadan Rural). On a point of order, Sir. May I ask if any question of validity of transfer of shares in the Imperial Bank or Reserve Bank is relevant to the question before the House?

Mr. Deputy President (Mr Akhil Chandra Datta). He is only giving an authority in support of the view he propounds.

Mr. D. P. Sethna: Because it lays down the law applicable to joint Hindu families, whatever the nature of the property may be

"Where shares in a Bank (Imperial Bank of India and Reserve Bank of India) purchased with the funds of the joint Hindu family and belonging to it stand in the sole name of the *karta*, the legal title is in the *karta* while the beneficial interest vests in all the coparceners. On the death of the *karta*, no change takes place so far as the beneficial interest is concerned. It continues to be as it has always been in the family. The legal estate, however, does not pass by survivorship to the other coparceners and consequently an application for grant of Letters of Administration by the surviving coparceners limited to the shares in question is competent even though the beneficial interest had, on the death of the *karta*, vested jointly in the other coparceners and his widow under the Hindu Women's Rights to Property Act"

Then the important question of court fees comes in. As regards all other persons except those governed by the Mitakshara law, they have to pay probate duty, an *ad valorem* duty for obtaining succession certificate, but the Hindus governed by the Mitakshara law under these circumstances have not got to pay probate duty.

"Sections 19D, 19(viii), 19 and 19K of the Court Fees Act make it clear that *ad valorem* duty is not payable on probate of a will or Letters of Administration relating to property held by a deceased person wholly or partially in trust but that the exemption does not extend to property held in trust beneficially or with general power to confer a beneficial interest. The shares in a Bank purchased with joint Hindu family funds but standing in the name of one of its members (deceased) is property held in trust by that member for the joint family and hence no court fee is payable on Letters of Administration limited to such shares."

"On the death of a Member of a joint Hindu family in whose name alone property purchased out of joint family funds is standing an application for letters of administration would make the position much clearer if it began by setting out that the deceased was a member of a joint Hindu family, who had in consequence died possessed of no personal estate of his own except that shown in Annexure A of the prescribed form, under Schedule 3, Court Fees Act, and that the whole or most of this property was merely held in trust for the benefit of the whole family for which exemption was accordingly being claimed as shown in Annexure B under Schedule 3 of the Court Fees Act."

You will thus see, Sir, that under that Ruling, the Hindus have not got to pay probate duty.

As regards the reference from Mulla and the sections of the Succession Act cited by Mr. Avinashilingam Chettiar, I have here a direct authority reported in I L R 52, Allahabad which says

"There is no legal bar to the granting of a succession certificate to a Member of a joint Hindu family who gets the property by right of survivorship and not as an heir, if he chooses to apply for a certificate as legal representative of the deceased person's estate."

Instead of asking the Hindus to produce a District Magistrate's certificate, all that the present Bill requires is that they should produce a probate or letters of administration or a succession certificate from the proper civil court authorised to make an order in this behalf. This is asked for in order that the Reserve Bank may not be troubled with all these complicated questions of survivorship and succession.

As to the other point raised by Mr. Hooseinbhoj Laljee, namely, which Officer of the Bank is to deal with these matters and who is to take evidence, may I say that clause 28(n) lays down that there shall be rules for regulating the procedure to be followed in making vesting orders. I am sure the criticism made on the floor of the House will certainly receive attention of the rule-making authorities. As to the question of limitation, I do not wish, at this stage, to make any statement, because the Honourable the Finance Member is the proper authority to make a statement on behalf of the Government on that important question. As to the point made by Mr. Abdul Ghani and repeated by Mr. Laljee, that in clause 9 the period of six months provided for obtaining probate or letters of administration or succession certificate would be inadequate, may I say, Sir, that this point was very carefully considered by the Select Committee in view of the opinions received which were to the same effect in many cases. It was felt by the Select Committee that the opinions missed the real point of the clause in that the clause laid down a summary procedure for dealing with securities on the death of a holder when the securities did not exceed Rs. 5,000.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: What is the exact point in fixing the limit up to Rs 5,000 and not more.

Mr. D. P. Sethna: Because in the existing Indian Securities Act, the same limit has been fixed and this Bill follows the same. I do not know if the Honourable Member wants a higher or a lower limit to be fixed.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Let there be no limit. Naturally I want a high limit.

Mr. D. P. Sethna: I have nothing more to say, Sir.

Babu Baijnath Bajoria (Madras Association Indian Commerce) Sir, I listened with great interest to the speech of the last Speaker from the Government Bench and the plea which he has taken against the points raised by my Honourable friend Mr. Sri Prakasa. Sir, I take it from his speech that the line which he followed is, that what suits the Government take that. Whatever is suitable to the Government in the existing law, keep it. Whatever does not suit the Government, then change it. The result may be that it may be convenient for the Government, but it may be most inconvenient for the general public or the holders of securities. Well, Sir, the Government do not care for the inconvenience to the public or the holders of securities. They mind only their own convenience. Sir, I am not a lawyer. I have not been able to follow the exhaustive rulings which Mr. Sethna, the previous speaker, quoted. What I am concerned with is not the rulings but with holding of shares.

Sir, the first point which I object to in this Bill is the question of trusts. The Honourable Member who spoke before me pointed out that the present Act does not recognize trusts for the purpose of government securities. It may be so, but may I ask him whether there are no valid trusts, no responsible trusts, no well-organised trusts in which men of the highest standing are trustees? Do the Government mean to say that these trusts—educational trusts, charitable trusts and other trusts—are not at all trustworthy? I think they should take a more business-like view in this matter. At present because the Government do not recognize trusts, the property of trusts is vested in the individual names of a few office bearers. If one of the individual office bearers dies, letters of administration have to be taken by his survivors. That is a very undesirable state of affairs. I am quite prepared to give the power to the Government to discriminate between a sound trust and a trust which they do not consider to be properly constituted, but in the case of those trusts which are properly constituted and are in capable hands, Government must see their way to recognize them. I do think the Reserve Bank will not get into trouble if they did so.

The second point which has been raised is about the Mitakshara joint Hindu family. I know that the Finance Member has got stepmotherly affection for the Mitakshara joint Hindu family. I know how members of joint Hindu family have been treated under the Income-tax law. Sir, Income-tax law has been the cause of disruption of many joint Hindu families.

[At this stage, Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) resumed the Chair.]

There was some concession which was enjoyed by the members of the Hindu joint Mitakshara family and after all what is this concession? Government securities were the property of the joint family, they were held in the name of the *karta* of the family and so after his death they should be vested in the name of the sole surviving male member of the family or in the name of the managing member or the *karta* of the family. What objection have the Government in this respect? May I ask if there has been any serious trouble over this matter in the past? Has the Bank encountered any serious difficulties about this concession to the joint Hindu family? Nothing has been said so far about any difficulty and if there has been no inconvenience to the Government in this matter and it is a matter of so much convenience to a large number of people in this country, I don't see any reason why the Government should take away this concession.

Sir Gowanjee Jehangir: What is the exact concession that the Bill deprives you of?

Babu Baijnath Bajoria: It has been very aptly described in the Minute of Dissent by my Honourable friend, Mr Krishnamachari.

"The Act of 1920 contains a section, No 12, which confers a special right on Hindu undivided families governed by the Mitakshara Law, by which the managing or the sole surviving member of such a family can get his title to Government securities standing in the name of a deceased sole holder who was a member of the family, recognised by a simple process of obtaining a certificate—after due enquiry—from the District Magistrate of the district in which the family ordinarily resides, that he was the managing or sole surviving member of the family of which the deceased sole holder was a member. This obviates the parties having to resort to costly judicial process."

In the present Bill it has been provided that instead of getting a certificate from the District Magistrate, he will have to get a succession certificate, or a probate from the civil court of law.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: Obtaining a certificate from a civil court is just as simple as obtaining a certificate from the District Magistrate.

Babu Baijnath Bajoria: If you knew what it means to get a probate or a succession certificate, you would not say that litigation goes on for an indefinite period.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: There is some misunderstanding somewhere. There is no difficulty in getting a certificate from a civil court.

Babu Baijnath Bajoria: I wish it were so, but I am afraid my Honourable friend, the great business magnate of Bombay, does not know the actual position.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: This is not what I say, I have heard it from the Honourable Member who has spoken on behalf of the Government.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) This sort of conversation should not go on. Let the Honourable Member proceed.

Babu Baijnath Bajoria: He will now have to go to a civil court and get a probate and a succession certificate. This will take more time and mean more expense.

The third point which has been raised by my Honourable friend, Mr Sri Prakasa, is that the limitation of 12 years should be increased entirely, agree with my friend. Government should not try to eat up this money. There may be many instances in which more than 12 years may elapse. After all, Government is 'able to pay the money and it should pay to the legal owner if it can be proved. If sixty years, as proposed by my friend Mr Sri Prakasa, is too long a period, I think that some compromise may be arranged.

Again, the period of six months, which has been mentioned in clauses 9 and 10, is too short, and I think that 12 months should be accepted.

With these words, I would request the Government not to be arrogant in this matter, but they should accede to popular wishes of this House and accept the amendments which will be moved later on.

Mr. T. Chapman-Mortimer (Bengal European) It had not been my intention to intervene at all in the general discussion of this Bill as it seemed to me on the whole a measure which was entirely uncontentious. But in view of the course the debate has taken, and more particularly after what my Honourable friend Mr Sri Prakasa had to say, I feel that it is my duty on behalf of our Party to say a few words.

Mr Sri Prakasa and other speakers are concerned about three main points in the Bill: the first is clause 6, "Notice of trust shall not be receivable". The second is with regard to the position of Mitakshara families and the third, is the period of limitation in clause 24.

Now, Sir, with regard to the question of Trusts. I am perfectly certain that no one in this House who knows anything about the activities of trusts in this country and in other countries would like to see banks, and more especially as in this case the Reserve Bank, dragged into the kind of complicated proceedings to which trusts frequently give rise. As a matter of fact I feel that the discussion in regard to this point has arisen mainly because of a misunderstanding as to the true nature of the proposed section. What the section says in effect is briefly this. It says "If you are trustees you may register your names with the bank as trustees A, B and C, but we will not recognise that trust

as such and you three trustees must arrange among yourselves to whom we are to pay the interest which is payable by Government on the specified securities". Now there is nothing complicated about that. There is nothing unreasonable about that. On the contrary it is a practical and essentially reasonable method of safeguarding, in this case, the Reserve Bank and in other cases normal business houses, banks and so on who are dealing with securities. The proposal simply is that the Reserve Bank shall not be dragged into legal proceedings connected with the trust, and I cannot imagine that if that point is once understood by Honourable Members in this House there would be any question of their pursuing the line of argument that my Honourable friend Mr. Sri Prakasa advanced. I do feel, Sir, that he himself was in this case under a misapprehension. I know that he is a lawyer and knows a great deal more about law than I do and I have always looked upon him as a man who brings to bear balanced and reasoned judgment in regard to these practical, financial and legal matters. But I cannot help feeling that in this case he really has been, as we say, barking up the wrong tree!

The second point he raised related to this contentious clause 7. Now I should like to draw the attention of the House to very important words in that clause and these are the words with which it opens "*Subject to the provisions of section 9*". Look at section 9. You will find that that section is the one that deals with the case of the small holder of Government securities. When I say small holder I do not necessarily mean the very poor, because we know that the very poor in this country do not hold securities of Government even to the value of Rs. 5,000. It merely means that in a case where some estate passes at death and has a sum invested in Government securities of a less amount than Rs. 5,000, in such cases the special provision will apply and that special provision is that the bank will be allowed to exercise summary procedure. Now, Sir, the moment that point is clear in the minds of all Honourable Members, I feel certain that they will see at once that all these suggestions that have been made of the terrible hardship that will come to thousands and thousands of poor Mitakshara families are nonsense.

An Honourable Member: Who said poor?

Mr. T. Chapman-Mortimer: One Honourable Member did. He said hundreds of thousands of poor Mitakshara families would suffer because of this proposal. So we have disposed at once—by looking at clause 9—of that argument.

Now we come down to the real bone of contention, namely, the position of Mitakshara families who in fact are really well off and in some cases very very well off. If I may be forgiven for introducing a personal note, it so happened that for some time last year I was in charge of the department in our firm that looks after securities and I assure the House that I learnt more in that short time about some of the troubles in this country—both of the troubles of Government and the troubles causing so much hardship—than I learnt in all the previous time in my existence in India, and one of the things I learnt was the highly privileged position into which Mitakshara families have worked themselves during the last twenty years. The position I found was this: that if it was the case of a member of a Dayabaga family he had to produce a succession certificate. If it was a Muslim or a European or a Parsi, each of them also had to produce a succession certificate. But when it was the case

An Honourable Member: Poor people.

Mr. T. Chapman-Mortimer: No. I am not talking about the poor people. Rich people. If it was the case of a person who claimed to be the male heir or senior member, the karta, of a Mitakshara family, he would come along and say: "I do not see why I should have to produce a succession certificate. You see, I do not have to do so in regard to Government securities." Well, Sir, as my Honourable friend Mr. Sethna has very clearly pointed out already, many companies provide in their Articles special provision to cover this case of persons who come along and say they are not required to produce a succession certificate; and the reason for the provision is exactly the same reason that Government seeks to introduce it into this Bill, namely, that companies

[Mr T. Chapman-Mortimer]

seek to protect themselves from all the legal troubles that are involved if they once make a mistake in the recognition of the headship of a family or the proper person to whom interest or dividends have to be paid

That is all that this clause seeks to do though we have heard harrowing tales of injustice to Mitakshara families I am the last person in this world to suggest that an injustice should be done to any community or any section of any community I should like to see very many reforms to remedy some of the injustices that go on in this country today, but the proposal of my Honourable friend, Sri Prakasa, and his friends that section 7 should be amended in the manner they desire, so far from being a proposal to remedy any injustice is merely a suggestion that one particular section of people in this country should be placed in a position of privilege, and I, Sir, am opposed to that

I do not want to enter further into this argument because I feel myself that there is no doubt that what is proposed by Government, and what the Select Committee has proposed, is in fact the right and proper thing to do. Before I came to listen to this debate I was satisfied about that. Since I have heard the arguments of those who talk to the contrary I am more than ever convinced that what Government wish to do is not only right but necessary.

Now, Sir, with regard to the last question of limitation in clause 24. It has been argued that the period of 12 years,—which, I may say, was originally six years, and which the Select Committee altered to 12 years,—is unreasonable and shows very little regard to the practical affairs of life. Mr Sri Prakasa was very emphatic on the question of increasing the period from 12 years. I think he suggested as an alternative 60 years. Well Sir, I cannot believe that he seriously meant it and if he would look at clause 12 he will find that in fact Government and the Reserve Bank have thought of some of the difficulties which he advanced as arguments in favour of his own suggestion of 60 years instead of 12. In clause 12 it provides that the bank in certain cases may determine summarily in whom the title of a security vests. That has been put in precisely to cover special and difficult cases such as my Honourable friend Mr Sri Prakasa had in mind. He argued, quite rightly, that cases arise where legal proceedings drag on for years and years. I know of such cases myself. They are frequent and we all know that. It is precisely to cover such cases that clause 12 has been inserted in the Bill. I believe that if Mr Sri Prakasa and other speakers who have opposed this Bill (at any rate certain clauses of it) had been present in the Select Committee and had heard the arguments advanced there in the somewhat cooler atmosphere of a Select Committee, I am quite certain that a great many of the misapprehensions which are now in the minds of so many Honourable Members would not in fact be there at all. They would recognise this Bill to be what it is, a consolidating measure to remedy a state of affairs that is not serious but has given rise to a good deal of trouble to the Reserve Bank. I am sure that the whole House agrees that a consolidating measure of this kind is both right and necessary. The only difference between us is that some of us say that one or two clauses should be amended in a manner that they desire and others of us think that these clauses should remain as they are. I have given my reasons why I think the clauses should remain in exactly the form in which they have emerged from the Select Committee.

There is one exception to that, which I should like to mention very briefly and that relates to clause 24 to which there is an amendment of my Honourable friend Mr Chettiar. Mr Chettiar has proposed an amendment about which, frankly, I am not quite clear as to what line is right to adopt. I know what he wants to achieve and I sympathise entirely with him. At the same time in measures of this kind what we have to consider is first and last very careful wording, because if we do not adopt very careful wording in a Bill of this kind we merely defeat the very object that we have set out to achieve. Therefore, though I feel sympathetic to amendment No. 12, on the list of amendments we have received, I am still of an open mind as to whether in fact it will do as

much good as the Honourable the Mover of it no doubt believes that it will. But with that exception I do believe that this Bill is essentially one that is necessary and useful and need not, in fact, have given rise to the sort of debate that we have had in the last two hours. I am not suggesting of course that we should all express one hundred per cent agreement with anything that the Select Committee recommends. I am not so stupid as to suggest that. But I do feel in this case there has been a good deal of misunderstanding, simply because Honourable Members have heard one point advanced by somebody, who is thinking of some special case which he had in mind, or another point by somebody else, who was not quite clear as to how the various sections would be read together. I could wish, Sir, that the House reconsiders the attitude which we have seen this afternoon and that it comes to the conclusion, as we in this Group have come to the conclusion, that this in fact is a useful and necessary measure and one to which we can give our wholehearted support. Sir, I support the Bill.

Mr. Lalchand Navakrai (Sind Non-Muhammadin Rural). Sir, the main question which we have debated today is with regard to clause 7 of the Bill, as it has emerged from the Select Committee. The main point contained in this clause is that in case of a government security the Bank will not be compelled to give the money of the security without a certificate of the court. This is being required as a safeguard in as a protection to the Bank for the purpose of giving this security to any person and to save themselves from any liability thereafter. That is the main question which is contained in clause 7 which says that the title of the security will be recognised by the bank only on production of a succession certificate. So far as the succession certificates are concerned, besides these there are other ways also by which the Bank can get protection and that is, as I will presently show, a certificate by a District Magistrate. I will confine myself with reference to the cases I will cite, principally to deposits in the Post Offices. In the case of a joint Hindu family, when there is any dispute between the parties, it requires more protection than when there is no dispute at all. Therefore what I am submitting is that Government instead of asking the surviving coparceners of the deceased to secure a certificate from a court the security can be obtained by giving a certificate issued generally after an enquiry by the District Magistrate. Of course there is a difference in the enquiry that is made by a court. It is laborious and costly but similar enquiry made by a District Magistrate takes very little time and has as good as a succession certificate by a court. The amendments that have been moved by my Honourable friends Messrs. Sri Prakasha and T. T. Krishnamachari both require that in the case of a joint Hindu family where there is a manager, the bank should not insist upon getting a court certificate before giving the amount of the security to the surviving coparcener, who as I said will occupy the place of the manager. In a joint Hindu family they elect a manager, the eldest member is generally the manager, and they have all faith in him. All transactions are made by the manager, and that manager carries on on behalf of the whole family and all the members of that family. Therefore he is the authorised man, and if that authorised man, on behalf of the family and having the supremacy of a manager, goes to a bank and secures government securities, why should it be that it should not be given to another survivor who will occupy the place of the manager, and that man will have the same status and same authority as that of the former deceased manager.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdul Rahim). It is now 5 o'clock. The Honourable Member can resume his speech tomorrow.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday, the 14th November, 1944.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 14th November, 1944

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber of the Council House at Eleven of the Clock, Mr President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) in the Chair

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(a) ORAL ANSWERS

POSTAL EMPLOYEES' REPRESENTATION RE INADEQUACY OF PAY, ETC

323. *Sardar Sant Singh: Will the Secretary for Posts and Air please state if any representation was received by the Director General, Posts and Telegraphs, complaining against —

(i) the inadequacy of the present scales of pay to meet the bare necessities of life in those days,

(ii) the slowness of the flow of promotion in the department resulting in thousands of employees of the Postal department stagnating at one grade for ten years and over, and

(iii) the insufficient increase in dearness allowance?

If so, are the complaints justified? If so, what steps do Government propose to take to remove these grievances of their employees?

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: (i) Yes,

(ii) Only in individual cases

(iii) Yes

Such complaints are carefully examined and steps are taken to redress grievances where they are established. Rates of dearness allowance were revised for the fourth time early this year.

Mr. Lalchand Navai: May I know if the Honourable Member has received very many general complaints from the Conferences of the Postal employees and from the Postal Department staff themselves in regard to the increment, the revision of the scales of pay and the dearness allowance? Is it so or not? Is the Honourable Member yet thinking of grievances only in individual cases?

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: That is a double question. The answer to the first part is in the affirmative.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Is there not a class of employees called Branch Post Masters who are receiving Rs. 6 per month even today?

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: The class of employees the Honourable Member has referred to are what we term extra departmental agents. These are men who work on postal duties only for a portion of the day and have their own subsidiary profession. In fact, the postal duties are a subsidiary profession to their ordinary duties. Rs. 6 per mensem to which the Honourable Member refers is only a part-time payment.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Do Government give any dearness allowance to them?

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: Dearness allowance has been given to these men.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: How much?

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: The dearness allowance for these men has just been revised and I am not quite sure of the figure. I think it was Rs. 3 until recently. I am not sure what the present figure is.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I know from what date this dearness allowance of Rs. 3 comes into effect?

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: I am afraid I must have notice of that question.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Is the scale of salaries adequate, considering that the purchasing power of the rupee is only five annas?

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: My reply to that question must be to inform the Honourable Member that we have taken numerous steps to supplement the scale of salaries in order to meet the extraordinary conditions under which we

are now living Besides dearness allowance, we also give various other forms of relief

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: The only step is to treble the salaries

Mr. Sadri Dutt Pande: In view of the fact that the Department is making lot of profit from the sweated labour of the low paid officials, is it the intention of the Government to appoint a small committee to go into their pay and allowances?

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: That again is a double question We do not admit that the staff of the Posts and Telegraphs Department is sweated My answer to the latter part of the question is in the negative

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I ask whether Government is aware that there is a great deal of unrest among the employees of the Postal Department as regards their dearness allowance and the low salaries and may I know whether Government propose to take any steps to allay the unrest?

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: Government is aware that there has been some indication of unrest in the manner of conferences and various representations which have been made to Government and Government has the matter under consideration

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I ask whether the postal employees have asked for adjudication and whether Government propose to give them adjudication If not, why not?

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: It is understood that certain sections of the postal employees have applied for adjudication but Government has already taken numerous steps, which I should be very glad to give the Honourable Member information about, for the relief of difficulties felt by the staff and it is not proposed to go to adjudication in the matter

Sardar Sant Singh: May I know how many representations the Honourable Member has received upto November and from what parts of India Has the Honourable Member received telegraphic complaints about dearness allowance and its inadequacy?

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: When I last received the figure, which was about six weeks ago, the number of representations received was in the region of about three thousand and they came from all over India

Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury: On what principles has the dearness allowance been given?

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: The principle on which dearness allowance has been granted has been to do the best to afford relief to the Posts and Telegraphs staff as well as to the other staff of the Central Government I think I might mention, for the information of Honourable Members that in the shape of dearness allowance, and war allowance but excluding good conduct allowance we are paying something in the nature of 2 crores, or 20 million rupees, in a year, which I feel is no small sum

(Several Honourable Members rose to put further Supplementary questions)

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Next question

NAGPUR PLAN OF ROADS

324. *Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member please lay on the table of the House the plan of the road usually called "The Nagpur Plan Of Roads"?

(b) Have the Government of India prepared a plan as a part of the Post-war reconstruction planning of roads?

(c) What would be the total cost of these roads?

(d) Has the Department of Communication calculated whether the transformation of Kuchela roads into pucca ones is an economic proposition?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) and (b) Copies of the Proceedings of the Conference of Chief Engineers of Provinces and States held at Nagpur in December 1943, to which the Honourable Member is presumably referring are available in the Library of the House The Report has been generally accepted as a working basis by the Provinces who are preparing project estimates

on that basis. Consultations with provinces are also going on and it is hoped that within the next six months it will be possible to set out what the plan for British India is likely to be

(c) The Nagpur Chief Engineer's Report (para 114) estimated that the post-war road programme as contemplated therein would cost Rs 450 crores

(d) The question would depend on what Kutch roads are proposed to be raised to a higher standard Provincial Governments are expected to examine the traffic and economic needs in respect of all such projects before a decision is taken

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: May I ask if any independent Board has been constituted as suggested by this Conference at Nagpur because they made the recommendation that it should be constituted immediately?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: No, Sir, not at present

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: May I know if the Government thinks of putting their suggestion into effect? If so, when?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I am answering a question on that subject later

Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali: May I ask if any Honourable Member of this Assembly makes a proposal to the Honourable Member about the roads, will he consider it?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I will consider it

Maulana Zafar Ali Khan: May I ask what would be the cost of converting the Kutch roads into Pucca roads?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahun): Next question

CAPITAL AT CHARGE ON STRATEGIC LINES.

325. *Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: (a) Will the Honourable Member for War Transport be pleased to state the capital at charge on strategic lines? Did these strategic lines during the peace time pay the interest charges?

(b) Is it not a fact that these lines were constructed in the interest of defence services?

(c) Is it not a fact that military authorities cannot run the Railways as a department of their own?

(d) Do the Government of India propose to consider the desirability of writing off the capital against the defence expenditure and leave the Railways to run the strategic lines without demand for interest?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) The capital at charge at the end of the year 1943-44 is Rs 32.65 crores. The reply to the latter part of the question is in the negative

(b) Yes

(c) The Honourable Member is asking for an expression of opinion and not for information on a question of fact

(d) The principle of the Convention adopted by the Assembly Resolution dated the 20th September 1924 is that Railways are entitled not only to an adjustment of the interest charges on the Capital cost of strategic lines, but also to a refund of loss, if any, on their working. In peace times revenue from strategic lines not only failed to cover interest on capital, but also, fell short of working expenses. The total loss has been adjusted against the share of the Railway surplus creditable to General Revenues, and the existing procedure fully safeguards the Railway finances. It will be open, however, to the Committee which the Assembly will in due course appoint to review the Convention, to examine the question raised by the Honourable Member

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: May I ask whether the Honourable Member is contemplating in the reorganisation scheme of the railways to allot the working of these railways to one of the Groups? Will he run the strategic lines independently or will he hand over their working to one particular Group?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The strategic lines, I think I am right in saying, are all in the North-Western Railway Group

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: If all these strategic lines are run by one Railway, where is the necessity to keep separate accounts? Why not amalgamate all the accounts in the general revenues?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: That is the question which the Convention Committee to which I have referred will consider in due course.

GRIEVANCES OF POSTAL EMPLOYEES OF MADRAS POSTAL CIRCLE.

326. *Mr. G. Rangiah Naidu: Will the Secretary for Posts and Air please state

(a) what action has been taken hitherto by the Government of India to redress the grievances of the postmen and lower grade staff of the Madras Circle that were submitted to the Director General, Posts and Telegraphs, during his visit to Madras in a memorandum on the 4th February, 1942?

(b) Is there any proposal now before the Government to revise the scales of pay and grant war allowance at the rates demanded by the All-India Postmen and Lower Grade Staff Union before the end of October, 1944? If not, why not?

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: (a) The Director-General to whom the Memorandum was addressed, considered the suggestions in it. As the result of his proposals to Government, an increase in the out-station allowance for Railway Mail Service staff was granted.

(b) No Government do not find any justification.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: What is the lowest pay that they pay to any servant under the Postal Department?

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: The lowest pay for any permanent servant under the Postal Department, excluding task work persons, who receive a certain payment on every message which they deliver, is Rs. 12, but that, of course, is increased by various other allowances.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: What is the lowest pay of the Extra Departmental Service under the Postal Department?

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: The lowest pay in the Extra Departmental Service, I believe I am right in saying, is Rs. 5.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Does the Government think that Rs. 5 or even Rs. 12 is sufficient for any family to live on?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member can draw his own conclusion.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: What are the facts they have taken into consideration to determine the lowest pay necessary as a basic pay for any servant under them?

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: The factor taken into consideration when the pay was fixed was the pay on which a man might decently maintain himself and on which we could obtain the necessary staff. But I would explain to the Honourable Member that this pay has been considerably increased by various allowances.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I know what is the increment they have given to the Extra Departmental officers as well as the lowest staff in that body?

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: I have already told the House that Extra Departmental agents receive Rs. 5 but then they have some other profession also, some of them are schoolmasters, cattle pound keepers or zamindars.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: I wanted to know what is the dearness allowance they have given to these Extra Departmental officers and other servants whose basic pay is Rs. 12?

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: I have already informed the House of the dearness allowance given to Extra Departmental agents. The dearness allowance given to men on Rs. 12 depends upon the area in which they are serving, in some areas it may be as much as Rs. 14.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Next question.

EVIDENCE GIVEN BY REPRESENTATIVES OF ALL-INDIA POSTMEN'S UNION AT MITTRA-CLARKE ENQUIRY

327. *Mr. G. Rangiah Naidu: Will the Secretary for Posts and Air be pleased to place on the table the record of evidence given by the representatives of the All-India Postmen and Lower Grade Staff Union at the enquiry held by the Honourable Sir B. N. Mitra and Sir C. R. Clarke in 1925?

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: No, as a record of the evidence is not available.

GRIEVANCES RE FIXATION OF PAY OF MADRAS POSTAL CIRCLE POSTMEN.

328. *Mr. G. Rangiah Naidu: (a) Will the Secretary for Posts and Air please state if it is not a fact that Sir B. N. Mitra accepted the view points of the Madras witness V. Balasubramaniam, the General Secretary of the Madras Union, in regard to fixation of pay and upon which the Member Sir B. N. Mitra immediately ascertained that a sum of rupees three crores would be required to give effect to the proposal?

(b) Was not the promise held out that, in view of the exorbitant cost, the grievances would be redressed in the course of succeeding years?

(c) What action was taken during the interval of eighteen long years to implement the promise?

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: (a) and (b) Government regret that no definite information on the points raised is available at this distant date.

(c) The scales of pay of the staff have been suitably revised since 1925.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Is it not a fact that there have been several Conferences of the lower grade subordinates and postmen asking for the revision of their pay? Is the Honorable Member going to consider their proposals or to ignore them?

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: It is correct that there have been various Conferences and there have been demands for a revision of pay. The view of the Government is that the present extraordinary period is not the time for introducing revised scales of pay. But Government has adopted various other means of helping the staff during this period of high prices.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: What are those other means?

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: So far as the staff which the Honorable Member has in mind is concerned, there is a good conduct allowance and dearness allowance and there have been grant concessions in various places. In some places we have a house rent allowance also and we have other matters also under consideration. There may be other measures which have slipped my memory but if any other, I have given the Honorable Member these.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Have Government under consideration any scheme to increase the basic pay of the lowest paid employees of the Postal and Telegraph Department during the post-war era?

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: It is rather early for us to consider what to do in the post-war period because we have no indication of what the trend of prices and what the cost of living is likely to be in the post-war era.

Mr. President (The Honorable Sri Aldun Rihim): Next question.

MINISTERIAL POSTAL OFFICIALS IN MADRAS POSTAL CIRCLE.

329. *Mr. G. Rangiah Naidu: (a) Will the Secretary for Posts and Air please state the strength of the ministerial postal officials not lower than clerks in 1925, and their present strength in the Madras Circle?

(b) If the number has increased, what are the reasons for it?

(c) Has there been a corresponding increase in the number of postmen and lower grade staff on account of very same reasons?

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: (a) The strength in 1925 was 3,848 and the present strength is 1,573.

(b) The number has increased on account of increased business.

(c) There has been an increase in the number of postmen and of other lower grade staff except runners whose number has been reduced on account of the replacement of many runners' lines by mail motor services. The percentage of

increase in the two cases is not, and need not necessarily be the same as the basis for the creation of additional posts differs in the various cadres.

Mr. G. Rangiah Naidu: May I know if postmasters and clerks in mountainous areas, hill and highland areas, are given compensatory allowance of Rs. ten?

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: It is a fact that compensatory allowance is given in certain areas where such allowance is justified. But the figure of that allowance varies in different places.

Mr. G. Rangiah Naidu: Is the allowance given to postmen also in the lower grade?

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: In some places, it is given, and in some other places it is not given.

Mr. G. Rangiah Naidu: What are those places in which the compensatory allowance is given to postmen?

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: Madras Presidency is a vast place. I am afraid I cannot answer that question without notice.

ALLOWANCES TO POSTAL OFFICIALS IN MADRAS POSTAL CIRCLE.

330. *Mr. G. Rangiah Naidu: (a) Will the Secretary for Posts and Air please state what the various kinds of allowances (excluding the dearness allowance due to war) drawn by officials above the rank of postmen in the different parts of the Madras Circle are?

(b) Are those allowances also paid to the postmen and the lower grade staff? If not, why not?

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: (a) The information required is given in Appendix 10 of the Manual of Appointments and Allowances of Officers of the Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department (2nd Edition), a copy of which is placed in the Library of the House.

(b) Such allowances are also admissible to postmen and Lower grade staff, wherever justified, at suitable rates.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What proportion of these postmen and lower grade staff get these increments and dearness allowance?

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: I am afraid I cannot give you that figure now. I will ascertain it if necessary.

RESERVE POSTMEN AT POST OFFICES

331. *Mr. G. Rangiah Naidu: (a) Will the Secretary for Posts and Air please state if it is a fact that in Post Offices where there are six or more clerks, one reserve clerk is attached to each office?

(b) Are reserve postmen similarly attached to those offices? If not, why not? What other alternative arrangements exist to enable postmen to get casual leave on emergent occasions?

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: (a) The facts are not as stated.

(b) Reserve postmen are not attached to post offices because there is no necessity for such an arrangement. When postmen are absent on casual leave their work is distributed among the remainder of the staff on duty, or in certain cases the vacancies are filled by employment of substitutes at departmental expense.

DISTRIBUTION OF WORK ON GRANT OF CASUAL LEAVE TO POSTMEN

332. *Mr. G. Rangiah Naidu: (a) Will the Secretary for Posts and Air please state if there is a rule that in offices where there are only four clerks, casual leave is granted to one on the condition that his work is distributed among the remaining clerks?

(b) If the answer to (a) above is in the negative, what is the justification for the Director General's circular imposing that condition in regard to postmen?

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: (a) It is presumed that the Honourable Member's question refers to the Posts and Telegraphs Department. There is in that

Department a general convention of the nature indicated which is applicable irrespective of the number of clerks in an office

(h) Does not arise

SCALE OF PAY TO NEW ENTRANTS OF POSTAL DEPARTMENT.

333. ***Mr. G. Rangiah Naidu:** (a) Will the Secretary for Posts and Au please state whether the new entrants to Postal Department subsequent to 1931 are given less responsible and less onerous duties than, or are their duties altogether different from, those who entered before 1931 to justify the introduction of the new scale of pay? If not, what are the other reasons?

(b) Do those reasons hold good now, when the prices of food-stuffs have risen four times?

(c) Do Government propose to revise the scale of pay as a time scheme for the duration of the war and grant dearness allowance at the rates demanded by the All-India Postmen and Lower Grade Staff Union?

Mr. W. H. Shoober: (a) There is no difference in the nature of the duties performed by the old and the new entrants. The revised scales of pay were based on a general principle which was to pay enough to secure the type of official required for efficient discharge of the duties of the posts to be filled. At the time of introduction of the new scales of pay, officials already in permanent employment were allowed to remain on the old scales as a concession.

(b) Does not arise in view of the reply to part (a) of the question. Dearness allowance has been granted and other measures have been taken to afford relief in view of the rise in the prices of food and the other commodities.

(c) No

PILGRIMS TAX COLLECTED AT CERTAIN CITIES OF UNITED PROVINCES.

334. ***Mr. Badri Dutt Pande:** Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state how much money has been collected as "Pilgrims Tax" by the Railway Department for the last three years for the following pilgrim cities in the United Provinces—(i) Hardwar, (ii) Gholagokarannath, (iii) Soron, (iv) Muttra, (v) Benares, (vi) Ajodhya, (vii) Allahabad and (viii) Lakarmandighat?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The information asked for is not readily available and its collection would involve an amount of time and labour that would not be justifiable in War time.

LACK OF INTER CLASS ACCOMMODATION FOR LADIES ON CERTAIN SECTION OF OUDH AND TIRHUT RAILWAY.

335. ***Mr. Badri Dutt Pande:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state if it is a fact that there is no Inter-class accommodation for females in the composite bogies of First, Second, Inter and Third of the Oudh and Tirhut Railway that run between Kasganj and Kathgodam and Bareilly and Lucknow?

(b) Is it a fact that the absence of such accommodation for females has been keenly felt by the travelling public of that sex?

(c) Is it proposed to remedy this defect? If so, when?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Separate Inter class accommodation is not provided for females on the trains that run between Kasganj and Kathgodam and Bareilly and Lucknow.

(b) The Railway Administration concerned, has not, I understand, received any representation on this matter.

(c) It would not be practicable to provide Inter class female compartments between the stations named during the war.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: May I know whether it would not be more desirable for the Railway Department to refer to human females as "women" in order to distinguish them from the females of other species? I do dislike the word 'female'.

Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: Is the Honourable Member aware that there is a first class composite car running between Lucknow and Kasganj in which there is a third class compartment. Cannot one of that be converted into a Ladies Inter class compartment?

† Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner having exhausted his quota.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I suggest that the Honourable Member should raise the matter before the Local Advisory Council.

Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: But the Local Advisory Council never answers our letters.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) Next question.

REPATRIATION OF MR. L. N. KHANNA'S FAMILY FROM GERMANY.

336. *Sardar Sant Singh. Will the Secretary for External Affairs please state if any attempt was made to repatriate the wife and daughter of Mr. L. N. Khanna from Germany since he gave his reply on the subject on the 19th November, 1940? If so, what steps were taken and with what result?

Sir Olaf Caroe: The Government of India and His Majesty's Government have made every effort to repatriate the wife and daughter of Mr. L. N. Khanna from Germany. It was hoped that it would be possible to arrange for them to travel to India via Istanbul and Syria but it seems that Mrs. Khanna was unable to obtain in Germany transit visas for the German-occupied Central European and Balkan countries and could not therefore reach Istanbul. Her case has been brought again to the notice of the Protecting Power for such further action as may be possible.

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY EMPLOYEES' MEMORIAL RE REVISED STATE RAILWAY LEAVE RULES

337. *Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: With reference to the reply to stated question No. 64 given on the 9th February regarding the North Western Railway employees memorial to the Governor General in Council on the unsatisfaction of Revised State Railway Leave Rules to them will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state

(a) whether the same has since been received by the Governor General through proper channel if so how it was disposed of,

(b) if the reply to (a) above be in the negative who has withheld the same from the Governor General in Council and why giving reference to the rules under which the power of withholding was exercised

(c) whether it is a fact that the memorial raised several points including the interpretation of Fundamental Rules, if so, why it was kept back since the power of interpreting rules was reserved in the Governor General in Council vide Fundamental Rule 8, and

(d) whether Government propose to call for the memorial and take action thereon, if not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) The reply to the first part is in the affirmative. As regards the latter part the memorial was duly considered and rejected.

(b) to (d) Do not arise in view of reply to part (a) above.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Who considers them? The Governor General in Council or the Governor General?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The Governor General in Council.

RATION VANS FOR RAILWAY EMPLOYEES

338. *Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state whether mobile vans carrying rations for Railway employees run on Indian Railways and that it is now proposed to discontinue their running? If so, why, and to what extent?

(b) Is it a fact that employees who used to be served by mobile vans shall have to go to stationary shops at other stations? If so what would be the extent of extra travel by employees for this purpose?

(c) Is it a fact that when discontinuance of mobile vans is complete on all Indian Railways, about one crore of free travels annually by about four lakhs of Railway employees stationed at road side places and huts will be necessary at least twice a month for purchase of rations, and would it be desirable to

†Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner being absent.

reduce public travel accommodation to that much extent which is already limited at present owing to war conditions?

(d) Do Government propose to continue running of mobile vans or stop supply of rations and allow that much relief by cash payment? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) The Railway Department's policy is to run mobile vans where these can give the employee satisfactory service. Where this cannot be done, Administrations arrange static shops at convenient centres, from which employees in the vicinity draw their rations once a month. The number of mobile shops is now 167 compared with 163 in April last.

(b), (c) and (d) In view of the reply to part (a), parts (b), (c) and (d) do not arise.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: May I know if representations were made that the way of giving the stuff through several shops in the rural areas is not adequate and that the number of shops should be increased?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: That is why we are opening more static shops.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY TO GENERAL MANAGER, NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY, LAHORE

339. *Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state whether the post of the Assistant Secretary to the General Manager, North Western Railway, Lahore is held by a Senior Scale Officer? If not, what class of officer holds this appointment?

(b) If the post is held by an officer lower in status to the Senior Scale Officer why has he been delegated with powers of a Senior Scale Officer in disciplinary matters under Chapter XVII of the State Railway Establishment Code Volume I?

(c) Is it a fact that the Assistant Secretary, Railway Board, exercises limited powers *vide* Schedule I on page 171 of the State Railway Establishment Code Volume I? If so why has the Assistant Secretary to the General Manager been allowed wide powers? Is it proposed to curtail the same? If not why not?

(d) Is it a fact that Divisional Assistant Officers like the Divisional Assistant Electrical Engineer or Assistant Signal Engineer exercise powers of Assistant Officer only and in all matters of disciplinary action powers of Senior Scale Officers are exercised in respect of the staff in Signal and Electric Branches by the Divisional Executive or Mechanical Engineers? If so why cannot the same principle be adopted in case of Assistant Secretary?

(e) What action do Government propose to take to ensure that very wide powers are not conferred on Assistant Officers? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) The post of Assistant Secretary to the General Manager North Western Railway is not held by a Senior Scale Officer but by an officer of Assistant rank.

(b) The Assistant Secretary has not been delegated with all the powers of Senior Scale Officer in disciplinary matters, but as there is no Senior Scale Officer to deal with establishment matters of the General Manager's Office he has been delegated with certain powers which are not ordinarily exercised by other Assistant Officers.

(c) The reply to the 1st part is in the affirmative. The reply to the 2nd part has already been given in my reply to part (b). As regards the last part the matter is within the discretion of the General Manager and Government do not propose to interfere.

(d) The reply to the first part is in the affirmative although there are a few other Assistant Officers who are exercising the same powers as the Assistant Secretary. As regards the latter part the reason has already been given in my reply to part (b).

(e) The rules regulating disciplinary matters already define the limits to which powers can be delegated to Assistant Officers, and no further action is considered necessary.

Mr. Lalchand Navarai: With reference to part (b) may I know how long will this Assistant enjoy the privilege of dealing with matters which belong not to him but to the higher officers?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: So long as he is required to do so.

Mr. Lalchand Navarai: How long is he going to be required? Can you not say some time?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: As long as it is necessary.

PUBLICITY ORGANIZATION ATTACHED TO INDIA'S AGENT-GENERAL IN AMERICA.

340. *Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: Will the Foreign Secretary please state

(a) whether there exists a publicity organisation attached to the office of the Agent-General for India in the United States of America,

(b) the nature of its personnel,

(c) what its duties are,

(d) whether the determination of the type of publicity carried on by this organisation is in the hands of the Agent-General or the Government of India,

(e) whether the Government of India has satisfied themselves from time to time that the publicity carried by this organisation is in the best interests of this country?

Sir Olaf Caroe: This question will be answered by the Honourable the Leader of the House in due course.

REPORT OF THE FERTILIZERS MISSION.

341. *Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: Will the Honourable the Supply Member please state

(a) whether the mission for investigation into the prospects of a chemical fertilizer industry in this country has submitted its report to the Government of India,

(b) whether the Government propose to publish the same,

(c) whether the Government have formulated any policy with regard to the development of this industry in India in the matter of the agency to be employed and the control to be exercised, and

(d) whether the Government have received applications from private industrialists for installing Chemical Fertilizer plants, and with what result?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: (a) and (b) Yes

(c) Government propose that, if on consideration of the report they decide to set up one or more factories, such factories should be State-owned and State-operated

(d) Some general enquiries have been received regarding Government's plans for the production of Fertilizers, indicating, in a few cases, the readiness of applicants to invest money in the operation of such plants as Government might import. The primary interest of Government is to secure a supply of cheap fertilizers to cultivators and to that end, but not otherwise, they have no objection to the establishment of commercial profit making concerns.

Consent has been given for the issue of capital by nine companies (in all cases for the amount applied for) and no applications have been refused.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Have the Government seen the large Industries Committee's report of the Bihar Government in which the calculation was made by a Professor of the Benares Hindu University, according to which the total cost of the proposed plan will not be ten crores but only five crores and that the most economic unit is 100,000 tons and not 350,000 tons?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: Yes, Sir I have seen a letter to that effect in the Press.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Has the Honourable Member seen the report of the Bihar Government which the Mission also saw and praised? Why is there such discrepancy in the cost as put down by the Mission of ten crores and the cost which they estimated at five crores?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: This is the opinion of a professor of a University. These questions will be considered at

a conference which I propose to hold early next week with the representatives of the Bihar Government will meet the technical expert committee and representatives of other Governments and the Government of India

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Have Government considered this report and come to any conclusions in the matter?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: They are considering the report. Conclusions cannot be arrived at till the conference that I have referred to has met.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: With reference to part (c), will Government, before deciding on a policy, give an opportunity to this House to consider the question?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: The matter is very important and the policy has to be decided not merely by the Government of India but the Provincial Governments also. It is a conference of all the Governments and some of the State Governments also which is ultimately going to decide the policy.

Sardar Sant Singh: Will Government invite this professor, who has been writing on this subject and claims to know something about it, to give his evidence or to be present in the committee and give his views on the economic side of the question?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: I have seen a great deal of literature by many estimable gentlemen on the subject, and it is not possible to invite to the conference every one of them. But I am perfectly certain that the Bihar Government which has examined this professor's credentials and his recommendations will put forward the views of this professor after they have considered them.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Is it a fact that at one stage the provinces, or some of them, desired the establishment of this industry on a provincial basis?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: Some of them do still desire to establish it on a provincial basis.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Am I to take it then that the proposed conference is mainly for the purpose of coming to an agreement between the Central Government and the Provincial Governments in this matter?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: The conference is for the purpose of seeing what is the best way in which this urgent demand for 350,000 tons of fertilisers can be manufactured.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdul Rahim): Next question.

STEPS FOR PREVENTING PASSENGERS' TRAVELLING ON THE TOP OF TRAINS.

342. *Sir Abdul Halim Ghusnavi: Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to the A. P. I. news of the 31st July, 1944, that for want of accommodation in any of the third class compartments three passengers eventually met their death by striking against the Arc Bridge on the Ghaghra and another passenger near Manjha in the Ballia District who were all on the top of the trains, and

(b) what steps have been taken by the Railway Administration to prevent passengers to get on the top of trains?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Yes.

(b) The Railway Administration has issued special instructions to its staff and the assistance of the Railway Police has been requested.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: May I know what further steps have been taken in the matter? The practice is dangerous and must be stopped. I have myself seen men on the top of trains.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I have answered that in reply to part (b).

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Is the Honourable Member sure that these instructions are being carried out and that there have been no further complaints in the matter? I ask this because the practice is still prevalent.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Certainly. The complaint, if I may say so, is largely on the side of the Railway Department who have to deal with these people who climb on to the roof. But they are doing their best to prevent people from getting into dangerous situations.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Are these people who travel on roofs of trains in possession of tickets? If so are not the railway administrations themselves responsible for selling these tickets when they have no room?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: That raises a very difficult question which I cannot deal with in reply to a supplementary question.

POORLY PAID CLERKS OF RAILWAY CLEARING ACCOUNTS OFFICE

343. *Sir Abdul Halim Ghaznavi: Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state

(a) whether he is aware that the Railway Clearing Accounts Office in Delhi pays its clerks a basic pay of Rs. 40 as compared with Rs. 60 which is the salary of a third division clerk elsewhere

(b) whether he is aware that these clerks' dwellings are not fit for human habitation and that sometimes in a room of 11 feet by 11 feet three of these clerks cook their food, sleep and live,

(c) whether he is aware that these rooms have tin walls on both sides and there is no ventilation, and

(d) whether Government propose to improve the lot of these poorly paid clerks who look ragged and undernourished?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) No, in the subordinate and attached offices of the Government of India stationed in Delhi the minimum pay for clerks under the Government of India's orders of the 19th August 1944 is Rs. 45 and Rs. 60 respectively.

(b) and (c) I have no information regarding the details referred to in respect of the private dwellings of the clerks concerned.

(d) Government have already given suitable relief to their employees including these clerks.

MUSLIM REPRESENTATION IN 'A' AND 'B' ZONES OF BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY

344. *Shaikh Rafiuddin Ahmad Siddiquee. (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to place before the House a comprehensive statement showing the percentage of Muslim representation in the A and B Zones of the Bengal and Assam Railway Administration with the following particulars—

(i) in all offices, section by section and

(ii) in outdoor appointments with ill cadres—such as T. R. I. C. M. L. Station Masters, Assistant Station Masters, Controllers, Goods Clerks and Parcel Clerks?

(b) Will the Honourable Member be pleased to place on the table a comparative statement to show the development in the percentage of Muslim representation in compliance with instructions of the Railway Board issued in 1942 directing appointment of adequate number of Muslims to make up the deficiency?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) and (b) There are no A and B Zones of the Bengal & Assam Railway and it is presumed that the Honourable Member refers to the Zone comprising the area formerly known as the Assam Bengal Railway. Government have no information regarding the detailed number of Muslims in the various categories. The representation of Muslims in the non-gazetted establishment of the A & B Zones increased from 35.8 per cent on 31st March 1941 to 72.2 per cent on 31st March 1942. The latest figures available pertain to the Bengal & Assam Railway as a whole and are given in Appendix C-1 of the Report by the Railway Board on Indian Railways for 1942-43, Volume II.

Mr. Hoosenbhoy A. Lalljee: Do the American administration which is now in charge of the B and A Railway observe the proportions laid down?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The staff continue to be under the General Manager of the B and A Railway.

Mr. Hoosembhoy A. Laljee: Who makes the appointments?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The General Manager

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: Is it a fact that the quota fixed for Muslims on this railway is 45 per cent, whereas the Honourable Member gives a much lower figure?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: That is for recruitment

INSTRUCTIONS RE RESERVATION OF BERTHS FOR MEMBERS OF CENTRAL ASSEMBLY.

345. *Shaikh Rafuddin Ahmad Siddiquee: Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state

(a) if he is aware that the instruction of the Railway Board in respect of reservation of berths for Members of the Central Assembly in class (I) are not followed by the Railway Officers who deny existence of such instructions, and

(b) whether the Honourable Member proposes to issue necessary instructions to all the Railways directing strict observance of the Circulars of the Railway Board already issued in that behalf when Members of the Central Assembly proceed to attend the session and return therefrom?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) and (b) It was recently represented to the Railway Board that some Railways were not observing the instructions issued in January 1943 and reiterated in January 1944, in regard to reserving accommodation for Members of the Legislature. The Railway Board accordingly, in a circular dated 2nd September, 1944, drew the attention of all the principal Railways to their previous orders, and directed that they be brought to the notice of all the staff concerned for compliance.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Is the Honourable Member aware that there is a regular tariff for these reservations even if they are made a few days in advance of Rs. 5 and that on one occasion I had to pay Rs. 10?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Did I understand the Honourable Member to say that he entered into a connivance with the reservation clerk?

Mr. Manu Subedar: Is the Honourable Member aware that people who have to travel on a particular day on account of important engagements are black-mailed by the railway officials and that there is no question of connivance but that we are made to pay and no choice is given to us?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: No, Sir. If the Honourable Member instead of encouraging the practice of which he complains will kindly report the matter to the senior staff of the station they will see that the matter is properly dealt with.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I know why the Railway Department has failed to cope with this situation and have not shown competence to bring this thing under control?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Because the public including, it appears, certain Honourable Members, will not co-operate.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Is it a fact that the instructions issued to station masters and superintendents on the platforms regarding special facilities for Members of the Legislature are not carried out?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I thought I had already answered that.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: My point is, are these circulars, which Government have issued, actually followed? I can say that they are not followed.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I believe that as a rule they are followed. But if Honourable Members will draw my attention to specific cases where they are not acted upon, I shall be glad to look into them.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: Do the instructions cover cases of Members coming to attend meetings of Committees also?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: If the Honourable Members will make proper arrangements in advance I do not think they will find any difficulty.

LEASE-LEND (CONTROLLED) VEHICLES ALLOTTED TO PROVINCES.

346. *Sardar Sant Singh: Will the Honourable Member for War Transport be pleased to state

(a) the number of Lease-Lend (Controlled) vehicles allotted to each Province for the period ending the 31st March, 1944, and

(b) the conditions under which the vehicles mentioned in (a) are allotted to the Provinces?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) A statement showing the number of new controlled transport vehicles released by this Department for essential civil use, to which the Honourable Member apparently refers, allotted to Provinces to end of March, 1944 is laid on the table

(b) The conditions laid down are —

(i) that the vehicles will be employed on war work or essential civil work connected with the war or to relieve conditions brought about by the war,

(ii) that the vehicles will be properly maintained and will not be overloaded or driven at excessive speed,

(iii) that a producer gas plant will be fitted to them, if required to do so by the Provincial Motor Transport Controller,

(iv) that the vehicles will not be sold without the permission in writing of the Provincial Motor Transport Controller, and

(v) that the vehicles will be surrendered to Government at a valuation, if demanded

Statement showing the distribution of 3-ton and 15-cwt. controlled Motor Vehicles released to various Provinces for essential civil use end of March, 1944

Serial No	Province	3-ton vehicles	15-cwt vehicles	Total
1	Madras	911	42	953
2	Bombay	776	53	831
3	Bengal	1,720	470	2,190
4	United Provinces	600	101	701
5.	Punjab	274		274
6	Bihar	827	108	935
7	C P & Berar	420		420
8	Assam	1,090	100	1,190
9.	N. W. F P .	216	10	226
10	Orissa .	125	27	152
11.	Sind .	224	31	255
12	Delhi .	151	2	153
13	Ajmer-Merwara	36	4	40
14	Baluchistan	158		158
15.	Coorg .	22		22
16	Central P W D	680		680 (a)
17	Other Central Government Departments .	164	..	164 (b)
Total		8,199	950	9,149

N B.—(a) For airfield construction works in Eastern India

(b) (i) Mainly for operation in Bengal and Assam for M. F. S. works 150

(ii) For various ordnance clothing factories in various Provinces 14

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Sardar Sant Singh: May I know if the congestion of passenger traffic on particular sections in the provinces is also taken into consideration in allotting these vehicles?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Yes, Sir The Provincial Motor Transport Controller goes into such matters.

LEASE-LEND (CONTROLLED) VEHICLES ALLOTTED TO RAILWAYS.

347. *Sardar Sant Singh: Will the Honourable Member for War Transport be pleased to state the number of Lease-Lend (Controlled) vehicles allotted to Railways and the conditions laid down thereon, if any?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: About 200 controlled vehicles have so far been allotted to railways under the usual conditions laid down in civil Motor Transport Vehicles Control Order, 1944

INSTRUCTIONS RE EMPLOYING MUSLIMS AS OFFICE SUPERINTENDENTS AND HEAD CLERKS.

348. *Mr. H. M. Abdullah: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state if it is a fact that the Railway Board have issued instructions to the General Managers of the State Railways to keep in view the desire of the Board for employing adequate number of Muslims as Office Superintendents and Head Clerks?

(b) Did the Railway Board make any enquiries in respect of the extent to which their desire was given a practical effect? If so, what was the reply from the General Manager, North Western Railway? Did the Railway Board further emphasize the desirability of carrying out the instructions referred to in (a) above? If not, why not?

(c) When was the last selection held by the North Western Railway for filling posts of Head Clerks and Office Superintendents for Divisions and Headquarters?

(d) Were the instructions of the Board referred to above kept in view in recent selections? If so, how many Muslims were selected for appointment as Office Superintendents and Head Clerks and how many non-Muslims?

(e) What is the present strength of Muslim Head Clerks and Office Superintendents on the North Western Railway and their percentage to the total number of sanctioned posts?

(f) Do the Government realize that the number of Muslim Head Clerks and Office Superintendents is still meagre and how do they propose to improve the percentage?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) and (b) I would refer the Honourable Member to my reply to his Starred Question No 197 asked on the 4th August, 1943.

(c) and (d) I lay a statement on the table which gives the required information. As regards the first portion of part (d), Government have no reason to believe otherwise.

(e) The required information is as follows —

4 Superintendents	23 per cent.
16 Head Clerks	21.6 per cent

(f) As promotion is not based on communal considerations, the distribution of appointments in these grades must depend very largely on the communal distribution of the senior most in the ranks from which promotion is made.

Statement showing selections held by the N. W. Railway for the posts of Superintendents and Head Clerks and the number of Muslims and non-Muslims selected for these posts.

Category of staff	Date of selection	Total Number of men selected	
		Muslims	Non-Muslims
<i>Headquarters Office</i>			
Office Superintendent	May 1943	1	4
Superintendent, Work-	February 1942	1	1
Superintendent, Personnel	July 1944	1	2
Superintendent, Commercial	February 1942	1	5
Superintendent, Stores	August 1941	1	2
Superintendent, Purchase (Stores)	August 1944	2	3
Superintendent, Drawing (Engineering)	April 1943	...	1
Assistant Superintendent, Personnel	July 1944	1	4
Assistant Superintendent, Way and Works	November 1943	...	3
Assistant Superintendent, Works (Mechanical)	November 1943	1	...
Assistant Superintendent, Commercial	March 1941	1	2

Category of staff	Date of selection	Total Number of men selected	
		Muslims	Non-Muslims
<i>Headquarters Office—contd.</i>			
Assistant Superintendent, Purchase (Stores)	August 1944	2	4
Assistant Superintendent, Operating.	February 1942	..	2
Head Clerk, Personnel	October 1944	3	5
Head Clerk, Stores	September 1944	2	3
Head Clerk, Budget	November 1943	1	2
Head Clerk, Way and Works	November 1943	5	9
Head Clerk, Commercial (Miscellaneous)	March 1944	3	1
Head Clerk, Compensation	February 1944	2	2
Head Clerk, Commercial (A L. Section)	December 1943	2	2
Head Clerk, Operating.	February 1942	2	5
Head Clerk General Branch	July 1943		1
Head Clerk, Copying Branch	June 1943	1	1
<i>Divisions</i>			
Office Superintendent	February 1942	5	8
Head Clerk, Operating	September 1944		8
Head Clerk, Commercial	July 1943		4
Head Clerk, Stores	May 1944	1	1
Head Clerk, Personnel	February 1944	3	6

MUSLIM ASSISTANT CONTROLLERS ON NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

349. *Mr. H. M. Abdullah: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state the total number, community-wise, of Assistant Controllers on the North Western Railway?

(b) Are Muslims adequately represented in this category of staff?

(c) If the reply to (b) above is in the negative, do the Government propose to ensure that in the next selections for Assistant Controllers a sufficient number of Muslims is selected and placed on the approved list to make up the deficiency? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall. Government have no information, and I regret I cannot undertake to collect it under the present conditions. A copy of the question will, however, be forwarded to the North Western Railway Administration for such action as may be deemed necessary.

SELECTION FOR POSTS OF ASSISTANT CLAIMS INSPECTORS ON NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

350. *Mr. H. M. Abdullah: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state if it is a fact that the posts of Assistant Claims Inspectors on the North Western Railway are selection posts?

(b) If the reply to (a) is in the affirmative, when was the last Selection Board held?

(c) What qualifications are required of candidates called for selection for Assistant Claims Inspectors?

(d) What was the total number of candidates recommended by Divisions for selection and how many of them were Muslims?

(e) What was the number of those called for selection in the Headquarters Office and the number of those selected from each community, separately?

(f) Is it a fact that the number of selected Muslims was too meagre as compared with non-Muslims? If so, why?

(g) Do the Government propose to issue orders to the effect that the Department concerned should take steps to call for adequate number of Muslims for these selection posts? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Yes.

(b) On the 21st December, 1943

(c) The candidates should have passed in the coaching and goods examinations at the Walton Training School.

(d) Out of a total number of 81 recommended by Divisions, nine were Muslims.

(e) The number called to the Headquarters Office for selection included eight Muslims, 19 Hindus and two Sikhs, out of whom five Muslims, six Hindus and one Sikh were placed on the selected list.

(f) The reply to the first part is in the negative, the latter part does not arise.

(g) Does not arise in view of the reply (f) above

CANDIDATES FOR SENIOR ASSISTANT STATION MASTER COURSE

351. *Mr. H. M. Abdullah: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state the total number of candidates by communities who appeared in Pl (Senior Assistant Station Master) Course in the year 1941?

(b) What is the total number of men by communities recommended by Divisions to the Headquarters Office and what is the number of the men nominated for this course?

(c) Why was such a small number of Muslims recommended by Divisions and still a smaller number was selected by the Headquarters Office?

(d) Will the Government please see that Muslim employees get their due share in this respect as this course is a stepping stone for the advancement of employees?

(e) Will the Government please state how they propose to select and train an adequate number of Muslim candidates in the above course in future? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The Honourable Member has not specified the railway or railways to which the question relates

RAWALPINDI SELECTION BOARD FOR RECRUITING FOOD INSPECTORS

352. *Mr. H. M. Abdullah: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state the composition of the Selection Board held in the Rawalpindi Division in the year 1944 for selecting candidates for the posts of (i) Food Inspector, and (ii) Assistant Food Inspector?

(b) Is it a fact that the Muslim Officer who was a member of the said Selection Board was a Junior Scale Officer while others were of the Senior Scale?

(c) Was no Senior Muslim Divisional Officer in the Division on the day the selection was held?

(d) If the reply to (c) is in the negative, what were the specific reasons for not including one of the Senior Divisional Muslim Officers in the Board?

(e) Will the Honourable Member please furnish the number of men selected by communities in the above mentioned selection?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) and (b) No regular Selection Board was held because these posts have not been declared as selection posts; but three officers, of whom two were of senior scale and one in the junior scale, were directed to nominate suitable men. The junior scale officer who was a Muslim was not directly subordinate to the others

(c) A Muslim senior scale officer was available

(d) It was not considered necessary under the circumstances.

(e) Of the three men selected as Food Inspectors, one was a Hindu, one a Muslim and the third a Sikh. As regards Assistant Food Inspectors, two were Hindus and one a Muslim.

COUPON SELLERS IN RAWALPINDI DIVISION

353. *Mr. H. M. Abdullah: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state the present strength of Coupon Sellers by communities in the Rawalpindi Division and the percentage of Muslims to the total number of posts?

(b) How do the Government propose to take steps to increase the Muslim percentage in those ex-cadre posts filled generally by selection?

†Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner having exhausted his quota.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) and (b). Government understand that these posts have now been abolished.

†354.*

RESTRICTIONS ON BUILDING CONSTRUCTIONS.

355. *Mr. Mannu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable the Supply Member please state when restrictions were placed on building construction by the Civil Departments of the Government of India, Provincial Public Work Departments, Municipalities, Port Trusts, District Boards and other public bodies, and why they were placed?

(b) When was it found necessary to requisition not merely cement but bricks, tiles and all other building material including timber?

(c) Have the reasons for these restrictions not abated now and have Government considered the desirability of relaxing these restrictions?

(d) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the serious overcrowding in Bombay, the harassment to civil population whose places of residence are requisitioned at the instance of the Government of India, and the desirability of permitting some buildings to go up, which will provide accommodation for different classes of people?

(e) Have Government considered that the explosion has dishoused a large number of people for whom it is their duty to provide with housing?

(f) Have they received any representations from provincial Governments generally and particularly from the province of Bombay for relaxation of the restrictions on buildings of all classes or of any particular class?

(g) If Government are not prepared to relax these restrictions and permit necessary buildings to go up, will they explain on the basis of the latest available materials and the needs of the Army for such materials, why permission for buildings that will accommodate civil population should not now be given?

(h) Do Government propose to appoint a Committee including Members of this House to go into this question to advise them?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: (a) In January 1943 the Government of India decided to restrict their own building to such work as was inescapably necessary. They asked Provincial Governments to do the same and to discourage capital works by private parties.

(b) Allocations of cement, bricks, etc., have been made throughout the war according to military necessity.

(c) No.

(d) Government are aware that the accommodation position in Bombay is acute and that considerable inconvenience has inevitably been caused to the civil population. Government propose to build accommodation for Central Government officers in Bombay to relieve congestion as soon as materials can be made available.

(e) The Government of Bombay are taking steps in this matter.

(f) I am not aware of any representation from Provincial Governments suggesting the removal of restrictions on building generally. But the Bombay Government had asked for increased allocations of certain controlled materials for re-building the areas damaged in the recent explosions.

(g) For military reasons, the availability of building materials continues to be short.

(h) No.

Mr. Mannu Subedar: Will the Honourable Member give this House such information as will not be of use to the enemy with regard to the military reasons? Will he explain why even for the Government officers' accommodation in Bombay building materials cannot be released?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: Because they are required for more urgent military operational purposes.

†This question was withdrawn by the questioner.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: Will the Honourable Member say whether these buildings which are required for Central Government officers in Bombay are of a temporary or permanent character?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: I require notice of that question.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: At any rate, will the Honourable Member see that they are not to be of a temporary character but of a permanent character and built in localities where they will be useful for other purposes after the war?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: I will draw the attention of the Honourable the Labour Member who is in charge of that particular subject to this question.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Will the Honourable Member assure this House that, in view of the very serious discontent that the needs of the civil population are neglected particularly in Bombay after the explosion which is naturally the result of war, that some special action will be taken to release building material and if it is a question of capital—i.e., finance—that private parties will be permitted to build?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: Sir, so far as the damage caused by the explosion is concerned the Government of Bombay have asked for certain materials and every effort has been made to give priority supplies of these materials. They have asked in particular for steel, Asbestos, Corrugated sheets, coal-tar, timber items, and cement, and the requirements of the Bombay Government for these materials have been generally met.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Is the Honourable Member aware that not a single building which would re-house not one of the one-hundred-thousand people who were thrown out have yet been put up seven months after the event, and that the urgency is really great and could not be evaded by merely urging military needs?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: Sir, I may point out that in every country which is under war conditions, people who have been bombed out, houses which have been destroyed on account of such catastrophes, Governments have not been able to re-house them or to build new houses for them under existing conditions. The requirements of all Departments, particularly of the Military and the operational needs have to be taken into consideration in releasing as much materials as possible for the civil population, and that is the constant care of the Government of India.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Will the Honourable Member have the question examined by a Committee?

(No reply was given)

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim). Next question.

MACHINERY AND PRINCIPLE FOR FIXING PRICES OF MATERIALS TAKEN BY GOVERNMENT

356. **Mr. Manu Subedar:** (a) Will the Honourable the Supply Member please state the machinery and the principle for fixing the prices of materials taken by Government in the case of (i) factories whose total supply is taken, (ii) factories from which partial supplies are drawn, and (b) merchants, middlemen and contractors from whom material is taken without any reference to where it is manufactured?

(b) Have Government received complaints of wholesale requisitions from different merchants and others at prices lower than what was paid by them?

(c) Is it a fact that Government have requisitioned motor-cars at arbitrary prices and in some cases at half the price paid by the man from whom the car was taken?

(d) Is it a fact that excessive requisitions have been made in commodities frozen in the hands of merchants and Government have never taken delivery nor released those commodities?

(e) Have Government received any representations on these lines?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: (a) Prices are normally fixed by negotiation with the supplier and in consultation with the Finance Department (Supply). The general principle adopted is to arrive at prices that are fair to Government and the supplier in the circumstances of each case.

(i) and (ii). There is no single principle governing negotiations, but the more important types of contracts are—

(1) those in which actual costs are payable with a fixed amount of profit per unit,

(2) those based on actual costs with a ceiling price, and

(3) those in which the prices paid before the war or those thrown up later by competition are accepted as basic prices

In the few cases in which negotiations fail, prices are fixed according to Undertakings (Charges and Accounts) Order, 1941, subject to an appeal.

(iii) In the case of merchants, middlemen and contractors, the attempt always is to base the price payable on the actual cost to the seller plus a margin of profit varying with the class of goods, subject to the provisions of the Hoarding and Profiteering Prevention Ordinance. When the seller's actual cost represents an unreasonable or speculative price and for this reason an agreed price cannot be arrived at, Government determine what a reasonable price should be and in doing so take into consideration the prices thrown up by competition and/or those paid by Government at the beginning of the war plus a reasonable extra to cover the subsequent increases in imported or manufacturing costs

(b) The answer to the first part of the question is in the negative. There have been some representations against the compensation awarded in particular cases on the ground that the amount awarded is less than the price paid by the previous owner.

(c) No.

(d) There have been a few cases in which stores somewhat in excess of outstanding demands have been frozen or requisitioned, as also some instances of delay in taking delivery of or releasing frozen goods.

(e) Yes

Mr. Manu Subedar: With regard to (d), will Government look to it that the Military and the Supply Department do not follow a dog in the manger policy, i.e., freezing material which is required urgently by the civil population and whether they will not try to release more material for the civil population?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: As far as possible instructions have been issued to release requisitioned materials at the earliest convenient stage.

DELAYS IN FIXING PRICES OF MATERIALS TAKEN BY GOVERNMENT.

357. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable the Supply Member please state if it is a fact that in fixing prices from factories whose whole output is taken by Government, there have been long delays and arbitrary rules and factories are called upon to accept prices which they have represented as unfair?

(b) How many such cases have occurred and in what industries?

(c) Do these cases come to the notice of the Honourable Member and, if so, has he considered the advisability of Government paying a fair price and of avoiding action which would appear confiscatory?

(d) Are Government aware that the normal legal remedies to business firms, merchants and industries are suspended through the operation of the Defence of India Rules and there is need for constant watchfulness if serious injustice is to be avoided?

(e) Is it a fact that arbitrary decisions are made with regard to a fair price that there are firms and contractors who have received ten and twenty per cent. over the cost and that there are others who are denied a minimum fair return of six per cent. on their capital?

(f) Can Government explain the very large range and variety of prices fixed for different firms for different articles?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: (a) Delays in price-fixation do sometimes occur, but in all cases in which they are likely it has been usual to pay provisional prices, pending a final decision.

As to the principles governing price-fixation, the Honourable Member's attention is drawn to my reply to the previous question asked by him today. When prices are negotiated, there can be no question of an unfair price and there has been no instance hitherto of price-fixation under the Undertakings (Charges and Accounts) Order in the case of a factory whose whole output is taken by Government.

(b) This does not arise as regards prices in view of my reply to part (a). As regards delays, I regret that it is not possible, without undertaking a laborious examination, to say in how many cases they have occurred.

(c) All important cases of price-fixation come to my notice. The latter half of the question does not arise in view of my reply to part (a) above.

(d) If as I presume, the Honourable Member is referring to price-fixation under the Undertakings (Charges and Accounts) Order, I would point out that an appeal is provided for under that Order. I am aware of the need for constant watchfulness.

(e) The answer to the first part of the question is in the negative. I have already said that the price paid has always been an agreed price and the question of an unfair return does not, therefore, arise.

(f) In negotiating prices, the circumstances of each case must be taken into consideration and differences as regards these must necessarily lead to slight variations in the prices finally fixed. But it is not correct that there exist a very large range and variety of prices.

Mr. Manu Subedar: When the Honourable Member said that one of the basis on which price was fixed for material taken by Government was the actual price plus profit per unit, did he mean by that the actual price as given in the accounts of the company, or an imaginary, arbitrary or constructive figure?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: Sir, it is difficult to answer that question in reply to a supplementary

†358.*

MATERIALS ENJOYING CONCESSIONAL TARIFF RATES

359. **Mr. Manu Subedar:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for War Transport please state whether there is any class of material which is enjoying a concession in rates, apart from classification, and which is carried at a lower rate than the fixed tariff?

(b) Is material belonging to the U.K.C.C. being carried at concession rates or is the concession to them only confined to priority in point of time for wagons required by them?

(c) Have Government considered the desirability of giving a concession on food carried from surplus Provinces to deficit Provinces and to distress areas having regard to the fact that most of this food moves in bulk?

(d) What is the nature and extent of concession to war material that moves from one place to another?

(e) What is the nature and extent of concession to (i) army personnel, Indian Army, (ii) army personnel, British Army and the Armies of the United States of America as compared with the rates charged to civil population?

(f) Are special charges collected for special trains run for the Army on the basis on which such charges would be taken if a special was ordered by a member of the civil population?

(g) Since when has the special arrangement with the Army to run goods and men at concession rates come into operation?

†This question was withdrawn by the questioner.

(h) Will all papers in connection with this be laid on the table of the House?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) The maximum permissible charge and the minimum permissible charge for the carriage of commodities by rail have been fixed by the Railway Board, and railways are permitted to quote rates within these limits according to the circumstances of each individual commodity. All the rates thus quoted are included in the tariffs published by individual railways. These tariffs are available for sale to the public and, in accordance with section 60 of the Indian Railway Act, the rate books or other documents in which the rate is authorised by the administration or administrations concerned shall be shown to any person at his request at all reasonable times and without payment of any fee. Certain railways have been empowered to charge, for certain commodities, rates higher than the maximum provided for in the general classification of goods, and details of those charges will be found in the goods tariffs of the railways concerned. The only class of material enjoying a rate lower than the minimum class rates fixed by the Railway Board is coal, for which a special rate is in force.

(b) The answer to the first part is in the negative. As regards the second part, there is no favoured priority assistance given to the consignments belonging to the United Kingdom Commercial Corporation.

(c) Foodgrains are carried at relatively low rates and the need for any reduction in these rates is not apparent.

(d) The rates charged for war material and the application of those rates are contained in the Indian Railway Conference Association Military Tariff No. 1 1943, a copy of which will be found in the library of the House.

(e) The nature and extent of the concession to (i) army personnel, Indian Army, (ii) army personnel, British Army and the United States of America, are contained in the Indian Railway Conference Association Military Tariff No. 1, 1943, whilst the basis of fares charged to the civil population is given in appendix K/I of the Indian Railway Conference Association Coaching Tariff No. 14, in force from the 1st May 1943, a copy of which is also in the library of the House.

(f) No.

(g) The first special arrangement between the railways and the Army dates back to the year 1868. Since that year there have been sundry modifications both in the scope and in the basis of charges.

(h) In view of the reply to part (g), my refusal to lay all the papers on the table of the House will be appreciated.

Mr. Mannu Subedar: With regard to carriage of food from surplus provinces to deficit provinces, when the carriage is made on Government account, whether Central or Provincial Government, which latter is a deficit province, why are Government refusing to consider concession rates or low rates or free carriage as a subsidy? Why are they merely adding to one side of the account and debiting the other side of the account?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Well, Sir, the railways are a commercial undertaking and they are charging low rates for the carriage of food. They have not increased the charges for carrying foodgrains by 12½ per cent. by which the rates of most other commodities have been increased.

Mr. Mannu Subedar: In view of the fact that concessions to military transport exist in spite of the fact that the railways are a commercial concern, may I know when famine conditions threaten in many parts of the country—I do not want the answer now—whether he will assure us that Government will consider giving an additional subsidy to food in order to stabilize prices by reducing the charges on the carriage of food from the surplus provinces to deficit provinces?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: No, Sir. These rates are one of the few things in this country which have not been increased since the war began.

Mr. T. S. Avasalingam Chettiar: What was the answer to clause (f)? I did not hear it.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: No.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: I heard the Honourable Member to say that some concession was given to food in the way of low freight rates. If they have been given, who gets the benefit, the consumer or the buyer?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The person who gets the benefit is the person who pays the freight. Whether it is passed on to the consumer or not is another question. In the present circumstances I very much doubt whether the benefit gets to the consumer.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim). Sir Frederick James.

ESTABLISHMENT OF CENTRAL ROAD BOARD

360. *Sir F. E. James: Will the Honourable Member of War Transport be pleased to state

(a) if he has considered the recommendations of the Indian Roads Congress held in October, 1948, and of the Conference of Chief Engineers of Provinces and States in December, 1948, relating to the establishment of a Central Road Board to assist in planning, co-ordinating and organising post-war road development; and

(b) if he has taken or contemplates taking in the near future any steps to establish such an organisation which is urgently necessary in view of the plans for road development which are now under active consideration by various Provincial and State Governments?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) The recommendations referred to by the Honourable Member are under consideration in consultation with the Provincial Governments.

(b) The scope and nature of the proposed Road Board is under active consideration, and in the meantime work in connection with planning is proceeding. A recently appointed Chief Controller of Road Transport and Development and his colleagues have started extensive tours with a view to bringing Provinces into the closest consultation with the Government of India on the post-war road plan. It is hoped that within the next six months it will be possible to set out what that plan will be.

Sir F. E. James: May I ask whether the answer that my Honourable friend has just given includes the establishment of the Central Road Board which was recommended by this conference?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Yes, Sir. The setting up of the Road Board is one of the subjects under discussion with the Provincial Governments and I may add that this question was also discussed by the Standing Committee for Roads which met the other day.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: In view of the fact that the development of rural road transport is very essential and is going to figure very prominently in post-war times, will Government consider the advisability of providing adequate representation on this proposed Board for the representatives of Local Boards in this country?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The constitution of the Board is one of the questions which is under discussion. If the constitution is to follow anything like the recommendations of the Indian Road Engineers then it will be a technical body and will not contain representatives of particular interests.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: In view of the fact that the Honourable Member has said that the matter is "under consideration" in reply to part (a) and "under active consideration" in reply to part (b) of the question, may I know the difference between mere "consideration" and "active consideration"?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: In the first case I have said that it is "under consideration in consultation with the Provincial Governments" but in the second, where it concerns the Central Government alone, I have said "active consideration", since the latter acts more speedily than when the matter is concerned with the Provincial Governments.

DELAY IN TRANSIT OF POSTAL ARTICLES POSTED IN MADRAS

361. *Mahi Syed Murtaza Sahib Bahadur: Will the Honourable Member for Posts and Air be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that postal articles posted in Madras are subjected to delay in transit;

(b) whether it is due to the manning of the Central Sorting Office at Madras with postal hands displacing trained R.M.S. Sorters,

(c) whether it is not a fact that the efficiency of service in the Post Office in the Madras City has deteriorated due to the manning of the Post Office with R.M.S. Sorters;

(d) whether it is a fact that the Central Sorting Office has been taken away from the control of the Presidency Postmaster, Madras, and is now placed in charge of a R.M.S. Divisional Superintendent, if so, whether the R.M.S. trained Sorters have been transferred back to the Central Sorting Office; if not, why not;

(e) in view of the war conditions and the necessity to avoid delays to mails whether it would not be advisable to immediately man the Central Sorting Office with experienced and trained Sorters who are now working in the Post Office,

(f) whether it is not a fact that the Post Office men have sent their representations both direct and through their Unions to be sent back to the Post Office, and

(g) whether it is not a fact that these problems were being considered by the Postmaster-General, Madras, for the past several months, and, if so, why the change of staff was not effected?

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: (a) No, except on rare occasions due either to late arrival of trains or to the receipt of an unusually heavy bulk of mails

(b) Does not arise in view of the reply to part (a)

(c) It is not a fact

(d) The reply to the first part is in the affirmative. As regards the second part, in selecting officials for transfer to the Madras Sorting Division preference has been given to those volunteering to work in that Division. To fill other appointments in the new Division, officials already working in the Sorting Branch of the Madras General Post Office have been transferred as a temporary measure. The question of transfer to this Division of officials who were originally recruited as sorters and subsequently absorbed in the Madras General Post Office Group is under examination.

(e) The matter is under investigation by the Postmaster-General

(f) Yes

(g) The matter is complicated. It is under the careful consideration of the Postmaster-General

Prof. N. G. Ranga: How many more months will it take before any definite decision is reached with regard to this very trivial matter.

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: I feel that to the staff concerned the matter is not so trivial. I am afraid I am unable to say how many more months it will take. Perhaps the Honourable Member will be able to find that out from the Post Master General, Madras.

(b) WRITTEN ANSWERS

FORCIBLE EVACUATION OF CIVIL PASSENGERS FROM COMPARTMENT BY NAVAL CREW AT SAMAL KOT STATION

382. **Mr. K. S. Gupta:** Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state:

(a) if it is a fact that a Bengal Nagpur Railway carriage No. 2581, about third from the engine had two third class compartments (accommodating 80 passengers each) attached to the mail from Madras to Calcutta which arrived at Samal Kot by about 10-20 A.M. on the 24th July, 1944;

(b) Is it not a fact that one of the two above compartments was reserved for B.O.Rs., wherein there were four of them sitting whereas in the other there were about 60 civilian passengers, including women and children while the accommodation was only for 80?

(c) Is the Honourable Member aware that about twentyfive naval-military people who were waiting on the Samal Kot platform came to the compartment occupied by civilians as above mentioned and demanded the evacuation?

(d) Is it not a fact that these naval people rushed into this civilian compartment as the civilian passengers did not obey their orders and having made forcible entry began to push out the passengers male and female even through the windows of the compartment, in spite of requests and persuasions on the part of the underguard of the train, the Assistant Station Master, and the Railway Police?

(e) Is it not a fact that the Chief Guard who came later at the request of one of the navy men encouraged the navy people to push out the civilian passengers and so they did with redoubled violence?

(f) Is it not a fact that one Mr. M. Subha Rao, an advocate of Vizagapatam who happened to be there requested the Chief Guard to accommodate the poor passengers left stranded and divested of their legal accommodation in some of the compartments Inter and Second Class running almost vacant, though some of the poor passengers had Second Class tickets, but the Chief Guard paid no heed to the request on the pitiable cries of the stranded passengers?

(g) Was there any representation made to the Government of India by the above gentleman about the most regrettable and the highly reprehensible conduct of the Chief Guard and the navy men? If so, what is the action taken? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) to (g) A representation from Mr M. Subba Rao, Vakil, Vizagapatam, was received by Government in July last regarding the incident referred to in the question. This representation was sent for necessary action to the General Manager, M & S M Railway, who is competent to deal with such matters.

CONCESSION RE POSTING TO OFFICIALS RETURNING FROM FIELD SERVICE

363. *Mr. G. Rangiah Naidu: (a) Will the Secretary for Posts and Air be pleased to state whether it is a fact that in his general Circular No. 41, dated the 8th December, 1941, he has allowed some concession in the matter of posting to the officials on their return from field service?

(b) Is it a fact that contrary to the above orders liens of several Postal Sorters in the Punjab, have been shifted from one place to another and in some cases from one Division to another in the absence of the officers concerned who are away on war services?

(c) Do Government propose to issue orders to remove the anomaly and earn the gratitude of the officials?

Mr W. H. Shoobert: (a) Yes The circular referred to by the Honourable Member has since been replaced by circular No 18, dated the 30th June 1942 to the same effect.

(b) No. The above orders allow officials who have proceeded on field service the option under certain conditions to choose the station at which they would like to serve, only on their return from field service. Any transfer of liens while the officials are on field service, temporarily made to suit administrative needs, does not contravene the orders cited by the Honourable Member. It does not in fact affect the officials concerned as they can ask to be posted to the station of their choice on their return from the field.

(c) Does not arise.

PANEL OF APPRENTICE TRAIN EXAMINERS ON BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY

364. *Mansur Muhammad Abdul Ghani: (a) Is the Honourable Member for Railways aware of the fact that on the Bengal and Assam Railway in the year 1944 a panel of Apprentice Train Examiners was formed for absorption in the ensuing vacancies after the completion of prescribed training?

(b) Is it a fact that no communal ratio was observed in the formation of the panel?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: With your permission, Sir, I will reply to questions Nos. 364, 365, 366 and 368 together.

I have called for information and a reply will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

PANEL OF APPRENTICE TRAIN EXAMINERS ON BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY

365. *Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: (a) Is the Honourable Member for Railways aware of the fact that in the month of July, 1944, the Bengal and Assam Railway detailed as trainees the first twenty candidates out of the panel of Apprentice Train Examiners formed in the year 1944?

(b) Is it a fact that not a single Muslim was included in the said batch of trainees?

(c) Is it a fact that in these initial recruitments stated in (a) and (b) the fundamental formulae for the observance of communal ratio was violated?

RECRUITMENT OF APPRENTICE TRAIN EXAMINERS ON BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY

366. *Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to give the following information about the recruitment of Apprentice Train Examiners on the Bengal and Assam Railway in the year 1944,

(i) the number of Muslim candidates who applied for the said posts in response to the advertisement for the appointment of Apprentice Train Examiners,

(ii) the number of Muslims called for interview, and

(iii) the number of Muslims selected for appointments?

SELECTION BOARDS ON BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY

367. *Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: (a) Is the Honourable Member for Railways aware of the fact that in Selection Boards for recruitments held on the Bengal and Assam Railway in the year 1940-44 officiating Lower Gazetted Service Muslim officers were included in those Boards?

(b) Is it a fact that the Selection Boards mentioned in (a) were constituted against his assurance given in his speech in the debate of the Central Legislative Assembly, dated the 24th February 1943?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Government have no definite information but there may have been occasions on which officiating Lower Gazetted Service Muslim Officers were included in Selection Boards for recruitment.

(b) The rules governing recruitment of subordinates are those referred to by the Honourable Member and as far as is known to Government the mandatory provisions of these rules have been complied with on the Bengal and Assam Railway in spite of the exceptionally difficult conditions under which the Railways have been working in recent years.

MUSLIM QUOTA OF APPRENTICE TRAIN EXAMINERS ON BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY

368. *Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state the methods to make up the quota of Muslims in the recruitment of Apprentice Train Examiners in the year 1944 on the Bengal and Assam Railway?

TEMPORARY POSTS IN CERTAIN CADRES ON BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY.

369. *Mr. Umar Ali Shah: Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state the number of temporary posts created in the Junior Scale and the Lower Gazetted Service in all the Departments on the Bengal and Assam Railway during the period from January 1940, to September 1944, and the number of the subordinates promoted to officiate in these posts?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: According to the information readily available with the Government, the number of temporary posts referred to is 141 and that of subordinates promoted to officiate in the Lower Gazetted Service is 188.

OFFICIATING STAFF IN CERTAIN CATEGORIES ON BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY.

370. *Mr. Umar Aly Shah: Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to place a tabulated statement community-wise showing substantive posts, academic and departmental qualifications of all the subordinate staff promoted to officiate in the posts of Junior Scale and Lower Gazetted Service of all the Departments on the Bengal and Assam Railway during the period from January 1942, to September 1944?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The information is not readily available and I regret I cannot undertake to collect it under the present conditions.

OFFICIATING OFFICERS IN LOWER GAZETTED SERVICE SENIOR SCALE ON BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY.

371. *Mr. Umar Aly Shah: Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to place a tabulated statement community-wise, before the House showing the number of officiating officers in the Lower Gazetted Service promoted to officiate in the Senior Scale on the Bengal and Assam Railway during the period from January 1942, to September 1944?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I lay on the table a statement showing the required information readily available with the Government.

Statement showing community-wise the number of officiating officers in the Lower Gazetted Service promoted to officiate in the Senior Scale on the Bengal & Assam Railway during the period from January, 1942, to September, 1944

Anglo-Indians and Domestic Europeans	Hindus	Muslims	Total
4	9	1	17

LOWER GAZETTED SERVICE SELECTION BOARDS ON BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY.

372. *Mr. Umar Aly Shah: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state if any Selection Boards were held on the Bengal and Assam Railway during the period from January 1940, to September 1944, to select candidates for the Lower Gazetted Service?

(b) If the reply to (a) is in the affirmative, what are, academic and departmental qualifications of Muslims who appeared before those Selection Boards and were not approved?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) According to the information readily available with the Government, two such Selection Boards were held during the current year.

(b) Information is not readily available and Government regret they cannot undertake to collect it.

LOWER GAZETTED SERVICE SELECTION BOARDS ON BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY

373. *Mr. Umar Aly Shah: Is the Honourable Member for Railways aware of the fact that the subordinates who had been promoted to officiate in the Lower Gazetted Service of the Bengal and Assam Railway during the period from the year January 1940, to September 1944, prior to their approval by the Selection Boards, were subsequently approved by the Selection Boards?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: There have been some such cases when posts had to be filled urgently, but this has not happened recently.

RECRUITMENT OF CLERICAL STAFF ON ESTABLISHMENT SECTIONS OF BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY

374. *Mr. Muhammad Nauman: Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to place a statement showing recruitment of clerical staff in the Establishment Sections of all the Departments in the Districts of the

Bengal and Assam Railway bearing the following information during the period from January 1941 to September 1944.

- (i) the total number of vacancies temporary and permanent, separately,
- (ii) the number of non-Muslims employed direct,
- (iii) the number of non-Muslims employed by transfer,
- (iv) the number of Muslims employed direct,
- (v) the number of Muslims employed by transfer,
- (vi) the total period or periods for which non-Muslims were employed in the cases of temporary vacancies; and
- (vii) the total period or periods for which Muslims were employed in the case of temporary vacancies?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: With your permission, Sir, I will reply to questions Nos 374 and 375 together

Government have no information and I regret I cannot undertake to collect it under the present conditions

RECRUITMENT OF CLERICAL STAFF IN ESTABLISHMENT SECTIONS OF BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY

375. *Mr. Muhammad Nauman: Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state—

- (i) the number of vacancies filled by direct recruitment, community-wise, and
- (ii) the number of vacancies filled by transfer, community-wise among the clerks in the Establishment Section on the Bengal and Assam Railway during the period from 1941-44?

CLERKS TRANSFERRED TO PERSONNEL BRANCH OF HEAD OFFICE OF BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY

376. *Mr. Muhammad Nauman: Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state the number of clerks in all grades transferred from District offices to the Personnel Branch of the Head Office of the Bengal and Assam Railway during the financial years 1940-1944?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: According to the information readily available, not more than three such clerks were transferred

PREPONDERANCE OF HINDUS IN WIRE SECTION OF BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY

377. *Mr. Muhammad Nauman: (a) Is the Honourable Member for Railways aware of the fact that the Wire Section opened directly under the management of the Deputy General Manager (Tele-Communication) of the Bengal and Assam Railway has been monopolised by Hindus?

(b) If the reply to (a) is in the negative, what is the number of the personnel of the said Department? Were they recruited directly or through transfers from other Departments?

(c) If the reply to (a) is in the affirmative, does he contemplate keeping up the Muslim quota in the said Department?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) and (b) The Wire Section is a comparatively small section of the Chief Transportation Manager's Office and is not a department. Government have no information regarding the number or communities of the staff employed therein.

(c) Such postings are not made on a communal basis

'D' GRADE POSTS OF OFFICE OF EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, PAKSEY, BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY

378. *Mr. Muhammad Nauman: (a) Is the Honourable Member for Railways aware of the fact that all the posts sanctioned in "D" Grades in the office of the Executive Engineer, Paksey, Bengal and Assam Railway, during the year 1944 were filled by non-Muslims?

(b) Will the Honourable Member make a statement about the method adopted for recruitment to this sectional office at Paksey on the Bengal and Assam Railway?

†For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 374.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I have called for information and a reply will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

NON-NOMINATION OF MUSLIMS ON COMMITTEE OF CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES ON BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY.

379. *Maulana Zafar Ali Khan: (a) Is the Honourable Member for Railways aware of the fact that the General Manager of the Bengal and Assam Railway has never nominated Muslims in the Committee of the Co-operative Credit Society, Junior Co-operative Credit Society and the Staff Benefit Fund so far?

(b) If the reply to (a) is in the negative, what are the names of Muslims nominated in the said Committee specifying the particular period?

(c) If the reply to (a) is in the affirmative, does he contemplate nominating Muslims in the said Committee?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) and (b) Government have no information regarding the particulars of such nominations which, however, are not made on a communal basis

(c) A copy of the question will be sent to the General Manager, Bengal & Assam Railway, for such action as may be deemed necessary

NON-ADVERTISING OF REORGANIZATION INSPECTORS' POSTS ON BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY.

380. *Maulana Zafar Ali Khan: (a) Is the Honourable Member for Railways aware of the fact that non-Muslims from the Munition Productions and Supply Department, Calcutta, who were exclusively requisitioned temporarily as Re-organisation Inspectors by the Bengal and Assam Railway in the year 1944 to re-organise the Administrative offices were permanently absorbed in the newly sanctioned posts carrying the pay of Rs 600 per month without advertising or circulating the said posts and examining candidates by Selection Board?

(b) If the reply to (a) is in the negative, will he be pleased to state (i) the date when the posts of Re-organisation Inspectors were sanctioned; (ii) the date when the said posts were advertised or circulated, (iii) the Selection Board held to examine candidates for the said posts, and (iv) the names of Muslims examined?

(c) Is it a fact that no suitable candidates for the said posts were available in the Bengal and Assam Railway?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I have called for information and a reply will be laid on the table of the House in due course

DISCONTINUANCE OF DIRECT RECRUITMENT OF SPECIAL INSPECTORS AND SPECIAL CLERKS ON BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY.

381. *Maulana Zafar Ali Khan: (a) Is the Honourable Member for Railways aware of the fact that the Bengal and Assam Railway have discontinued direct recruitment of Special Inspectors and Special Clerks in the Traffic Department which have tended to defeat the purpose of the Home Department's Resolution No F14/17-B/38-Este., dated the 4th July, 1934, since 1942?

(b) Is it a fact that suitable Muslims of high academic qualifications were available for the said categories?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: With your permission, Sir, I will reply to questions Nos. 381 and 382 together

I have called for information and a reply will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

VACANCIES OF SPECIAL INSPECTORS, ETC. ON BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY.

382. *Maulana Zafar Ali Khan: Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state the number of temporary and permanent vacancies which occurred in the categories of Special Inspectors, Special Clerks, Claims and Commercial Inspectors on the Bengal and Assam Railway during the period from 1942 to 1944 and the number of non-Muslims and Muslims who were absorbed in the said vacancies through promotions and direct recruitment?

†For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 381.

IGNORING CLAIMS OF MUSLIMS FOR CERTAIN POSTS ON BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY.

383. ***Manilala Zafar Ali Khan:** (a) Is the Honourable Member for Railways aware of the fact that the Bengal and Assam Railway have not considered the claims of the qualified Muslims for the following posts in the same way as the claims of the members of other communities were considered during the year 1940 to September, 1944

- (i) District Controller,
 - (ii) Assistant Traffic Controller,
 - (iii) Supervising Station Masters; and
 - (iv) Supervising Assistant Station Masters?
- (b) If the reply to (a) is in the negative, what are the number of the staff, community-wise, who were promoted to the said posts during the said period?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) The reply is in the negative
(b) I regret I cannot undertake to collect the information under the present conditions.

SUBORDINATES ABSORBED IN LOWER GAZETTED SERVICE IN STORES DEPARTMENT OF BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY.

384. ***Mr. Muhammad Hussain Choudhury:** Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state the numbers of Muslim and Non-Muslim subordinates absorbed in the Lower Gazetted Service in operative vacancies in the Stores Department of the Bengal and Assam Railway during the period from January, 1942, to September, 1944?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: One subordinate was permanently promoted and twelve were appointed to officiate in the Lower Gazetted Service. All of them are non-Muslims.

PROMOTIONS TO CERTAIN GRADES IN HEAD OFFICE, ETC. OF BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY.

385. ***Mr. Muhammad Hussain Choudhury:** Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state the number of Muslims and non-Muslims promoted to "D", "E", "F" and "G" Grades in the Head office and in the office of the District Controller of Stores, Calcutta of the Bengal and Assam Railway during the period from 1942 to 1944 and the substantive posts held by them during these years?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The information is not readily available and I regret I cannot undertake to collect it under the present conditions.

NON-SELECTION OF MUSLIMS IN STORES DEPARTMENT OF BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY FOR LOWER GAZETTED SERVICE.

386. ***Mr. Muhammad Hussain Choudhury:** (a) Is the Honourable Member for Railways aware of the fact that Muslims in the Stores Department of the Bengal and Assam Railway have never been examined by Selection Boards for the posts in the Lower Gazetted Service of the said Department?

- (b) If the reply to (a) is in the negative will he be pleased to state—
- (i) the number of candidates who appeared before the Selection Boards during the period from 1942 to 1944;
 - (ii) their substantive pay and officiating pay in case any candidate who was officiating in higher grade at the time of Selection;
 - (iii) their academic qualifications and the total length of service; and
 - (iv) the number of Muslims left over with greater experience, and longer service and higher rates of pay than the non-Muslim candidates called for?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) and (b). I have called for information and a reply will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

PROMOTIONS IN HEAD OFFICE OF STORES DEPARTMENT OF BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY.

387. ***Mr. Muhammad Hussain Choudhury:** Is the Honourable Member for Railways aware of the fact that out of the candidates declared unsuitable by

Selection Boards held in the year 1944 in the Head Office of the Stores Department of the Bengal and Assam Railway for the selection of candidates for promotions to different grades only non-Muslims were promoted?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I have called for information and a reply will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

DEPOT STAFF OF STORES DEPARTMENT OF BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY.

388. *Mr. Muhammad Hussain Choudhury: (a) Is the Honourable Member for Railways aware of the fact that the Controller of Stores of the Bengal and Assam Railway does not post Muslims in the Depot side?

(b) If the reply to (a) is in the negative what is the present strength community-wise of all the Depots in the following categories—

- (i) Chief Assistant,
- (ii) Store Keeper Class I,
- (iii) Store Keeper Class II,
- (iv) Assistant Store Keeper,
- (v) Ward Keeper Senior, and
- (vi) Ward Keeper, Junior?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) No.

(b) The information is not readily available and I regret I cannot undertake to collect it under the present conditions

BALES OF COTTON PIECE-GOODS RECEIVED AT PILKHA RAILWAY STATION FOR TRANSPORT.

389. *Mr. Kallash Bihari Lall: Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state:

(a) the number of bales of cotton piece goods received by the Pilkha Railway station on the Delhi-Moradabad Section of the East Indian Railway for transport by rail between the 14th October, 1944, and the 31st October, 1944; and

(b) the number and date of the Railway Receipt together with the quantity and weight shown on the Railway Receipt and invoice under which those bales of cotton piece goods were booked or transported by rail?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) 890 bales

(b) Government consider that the time and labour involved in compiling the information will be incommensurate with the results to be obtained

VISIT OF ACCREDITED PRESS CORRESPONDENTS TO RAILWAY WORKSHOPS, ETC.

390. *Mr. Kallash Bihari Lall: Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state:

(a) if it is a fact that the Central Government (Railway Board) have invited the Press Association (not registered under any law of the country) to nominate the Accredited Press Correspondents to the Government of India to visit Railway Workshops and other places; if so, what workshops and places were visited by them; and

(b) if it is a fact that those correspondents also submitted a report of their visits to the Central Government (Railway Board); if so, whether it is proposed to lay that report on the table of the House, if not, why not; and if not what the correct fact is?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Yes. I lay on the Table a list of the workshops and other places visited.

(b) No report was expected from the correspondents and none was submitted to the Railway Board. I understand, however, that several of the principal newspapers published accounts from their accredited correspondents of their experiences during their tour and of the various activities of the railways at the places visited.

Last of Workshops and other places visited by Press Correspondents on their tour of inspection of railway activities.

Lahore—	Manipur Rd—
Clothing Factory.	L. of C. Railheads.
Workshops	Ledo—
Civil Training Centre	L. of C. Railheads
Divisional Control Office	Amingaon—
Walton Training School	Wagon Ferry
Elusaval—	Porbatipur—
Locomotive Shed	Transshipment Yard
Carriage & Wagon Repair Sidings.	Saidpur—
Indian & European Institutes	Workshops
Kalyan—	Kanchrapara—
Electric Overhauling Shops	Workshops
Bombay—	Calcutta—
Control Office	Calcutta Port
Power Cabin	Howrah Station
Matunga—	Burn & Co Wagon Building Works.
Workshops	Consol—
Madras—	Marshalling Yard
Madras Harbour.	Control Office
M & S' M Railway Control Office and	Allotment Office.
Head Office	Hirapur—
Regional Controller of Railway Properties.	Steel Works
Office	Pathardih—
Kharagpur—	Karunda—
Workshops	} Collieries
Schools	Kargali—
Institutes	Jamalpur—
Grain Shops.	Workshops
Hospital	Technical School.
Chittagong—	Apprentices' Hostels.
Port.	Mokameh Ghat—
	Transshipment points

STATEMENT IN HOUSE OF COMMONS RE SHORTAGE IN THE RAISING OF COAL IN INDIA

391. **Mr. E. C. Neogy:** Will the Honourable the Supply Member be pleased to refer to his reply to my starred question No. 17 and state

(a) whether the statement made recently in the House of Commons regarding the shortage in the raising of coal was based upon information supplied by Government;

(b) whether the raisings made in September and October last were so satisfactory as to enable the bad months of November and December to be tidied over for the purpose of maintaining sufficient quotas for different classes of consumers within the country;

(c) whether there was no real attempt at organising the office of the Coal Commissioner till it was transferred to the control of the Honourable Member's Department;

(d) whether the target fixed at one time by the Coal Commissioner had to be revised later so as to reduce it;

(e) in what proportion of cases, the targets fixed for individual collieries producing superior grades of coal have been reached or exceeded;

(f) in what proportion of cases the targets fixed for individual collieries producing lower grades of coal have been reached or exceeded;

(g) the reasons for the failure of any class of collieries to achieve the targets fixed; and -

(h) the extent to which the collieries producing superior and the lower grades of coal, respectively, are likely to benefit from the financial inducements indicated by the Honourable Member in his reply to part (d) of the aforesaid question?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: (a) Yes, I think so.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) I would invite the attention of the Honourable Member to the answer given by me to part (d) of his question No. 15 on the 1st November 1944. In

that reply I have described the various stages by which the office of the Coal Commissioner was organised

(d) The Honourable Member is presumably referring to the target fixed for the purposes of the E P T free bonus payable at 6 monthly intervals. This target was not fixed by the Coal Commissioner, but by Government. It has not been reduced.

(e), (f) and (g) Information is not available at present.

(h) It is too early to indicate the extent to which various collieries will be benefited.

REVIEW OF WORK OF COAL CONTROL BOARD

392. *Mr. K. C. Neogy: (a) Will the Honourable the Supply Member be pleased to make a statement reviewing the work of the Coal Control Board ever since its constitution in the spheres of production and distribution, respectively?

(b) Has any complaint come to the notice of the Honourable Member that the constitution of the Board is not sufficiently representative of different shades of interest and that the duties and functions of the Board as originally conceived have been abridged in practice?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: (a) The Coal Control Board held its first meeting on 3rd May, 1944. The purpose of the Coal Control Board is to advise Government on all matters connected with the working of the Colliery Control Order, 1944, in general and in particular of certain clauses of that Order dealing with the fixation of prices of coal, distribution and stacking of coal and the question of Government issuing directions to any colliery owner prohibiting or limiting the mining or production of any grade of coal or coke. Its members include representatives of the principal mining associations, the Associated Chamber of Commerce, the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry and the Indian Coal Merchants' Association.

(i) The Coal Control Board has held seven meetings. The principal matters upon which it has tendered advice to Government are as follows —

(1) the fixation of prices of coal and coke,

(2) the issue of orders regarding middlemen's commissions,

(3) the question of prohibiting or limiting the mining or production of any grade of coal,

(4) the possibility of increasing coal production by the adjustment of inter-colliery boundaries,

(5) the question whether Government should protect a particular colliery owner against a land lord if in any case Government orders a colliery to produce coal in a manner to which the land lord objects,

(6) the supply of consumer goods to colliery labour,

(7) the procurement and distribution of mining stores and equipment;

(8) the manner of dealing with complaints about the quality of coal supplied to consumers,

(9) the Coal Commissioner's distribution scheme,

(11) The advice of the Coal Control Board on these and other matters has been of considerable assistance to Government.

(b) Altogether three representations have been received asking for seat on the Coal Control Board. One from Messrs Tata Iron and Steel Company is still under consideration. The request from the All-India Trade Union Congress was turned down as matters affecting colliery labour do not directly arise out of the functions allotted to the Board under the Coal Control Order. They were asked to bring any matter affecting labour to the notice of the Government of India in the Labour Department. Certain colliery owners who are not members of one or the other of the recognised Associations wanted a seat on the Coal Control Board, but their request was not granted.

NEW COAL MINES OPENED

393. *Mr. K. C. Neogy: (a) Will the Honourable the Supply Member please state how many new coal mines have been opened since the control scheme came into operation and in which different areas?

(b) Has any order been issued or is proposed to be issued prohibiting the opening of any new mine otherwise than with the concurrence of Government?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: (a) As far as I know 14 new mines have been opened, most of which are situated in Bihar and Bengal area

(b) No, Sir

COAL MINES ACQUIRED FOR WORKING

394. *Mr. K. O. Neogy: Will the Honourable the Supply Member please state whether Government have acquired or propose to acquire any coal mine for being worked by it? If so, in which areas, for what reasons and on what terms?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: Government have not so far acquired any mine. They are considering the question of taking over one colliery on lease. The terms are being negotiated.

PROPOSED INCREASE OF BASIC QUOTA FOR IMPORTS FROM UNITED KINGDOM

395. *Mr. K. O. Neogy: (a) Will the Honourable the Supply Member be pleased to state whether his attention has been drawn to the statement made by the Chief Controller of Imports on October 18, 1944, to the Andhra Chamber of Commerce that the basic quota for imports from the United Kingdom is proposed to be increased from 12½ per cent to 50 per cent in the case of certain goods?

(b) Has his attention been also drawn to the statement of the President of the Indian Merchants' Chamber at its quarterly meeting in Bombay in August last protesting against the present import policy of Government?

(c) Is it a fact that considerable quantities of textiles have been imported from the United Kingdom, and, if so, what has been the total of such imports so far?

(d) What has been the increase in the percentage of quota for imports of soap, toilet requisites, liquor, bleaching powder, caustic soda, soda ash, sodium bicarbonate, sodium sulphide and other chemicals, separately?

(e) Is the Honourable Member aware that the increased imports of such goods may force several industries producing these chemicals or using these chemicals for production of consumer goods to close down? Is it a fact that specific assurances of protection or continued Government assistance were given to some of these industries when they came to the Government's aid at the beginning of the war?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: The Honourable Member for Commerce will answer this question.

FERTILIZERS MISSION

396. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable the Supply Member be pleased to state whether the Mission which came to deal with fertilisers has returned? If so, when is its report going to be published?

(b) Is it a fact that the men connected with this Mission were present or past employees of the Imperial Chemical Industries?

(c) Did Government receive any applications from Indian capitalists to be permitted to set up this industry, and, if so, why have these applications been rejected?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: (a) The Technical Fertilizer Mission has not yet returned to England. The report of the Mission has been received by Government and published.

(b) Mr G C Gowing, the head of the Mission and Mr Rigg, one of the members, are employed by Imperial Chemical Industries. Mr T H. Raley, the third member, is from the Power Gas Corporation Limited, and represents the British Chemical Plant Manufacturers' Association.

(c) Yes

I would draw the attention of the Honourable Member to my reply to parts (c) and (d) of question No. 841 just answered by me. No applications have been rejected.

PURCHASE OF NITROGEN INDUSTRY PLANTS FROM AMERICA

397. ***Mr. Manu Subedar:** (a) Will the Honourable the Supply Member be pleased to state if it is a fact that there are several plants for Nitrogen industry set up by the Government of the United States of America for the purposes of the war, which will be out for sale?

(b) If the answer to (a) above is in the affirmative, is there any reason why these plants should not be purchased for India instead of paying heavily for second-hand plants from the United Kingdom?

(c) Have Government put this matter before the Standing Advisory Committee connected with any of the Departments or before any members of the Legislature?

(d) Do Government propose to make a complete statement of their policy in connection with the fertiliser industry?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: (a) Government have no information to this effect, and are not interested in second-hand plant in any case

(b) Government have no intention of buying second-hand plant from anywhere

(c) As above

(d) Government are about to discuss their urgent short-term policy of manufacturing a substantial quantity of badly needed artificial fertilizers with a representative All-India Committee, and with Provincial Governments. They will decide their short-term policy in the light of these discussions

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

DISMISSALS, ETC, ON CERTAIN DIVISIONS OF NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

54. **Mr. Lalchand Navabai:** Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state

(a) the number of employees (i) removed from service, and (ii) dismissed on the Karachi, Quetta, Multan and Ferozepur Divisions of the North Western Railway during the half-year ending the 31st March, 1944, and

(b) how many of them appealed and how many were re-instated on each Division, separately?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: A statement giving such of the required information as is readily available in respect of subordinate staff only is attached. Information regarding inferior staff is not readily available and I cannot undertake to collect it under the present conditions

Statement showing subordinate staff removed from service or dismissed etc during the half-year ending 31st March 1944 on the Karachi, Quetta, Multan and Ferozepore Divisions of the North Western Railway

Division	Removed from service			Dismissed from service		
	Number of subordinates removed from service	Number of staff who appealed against their removal from service	Number of staff who were reinstated as a result of appeal	Number of subordinates dismissed from service	Number of staff who appealed against their dismissal	Number of staff who were reinstated as a result of appeal
Karachi .	27	2	1	2	2	...
Quetta .	3	1	...	2	1	...
Multan .	4	...	...	...	...	...
Ferozepore .	1	1	...	1	...	...

BENEFIT OF PASSING SUBORDINATE ACCOUNTS SERVICE EXAMINATION EARLIER THAN SENIORS IN RAILWAY ACCOUNTS DEPARTMENTS.

55. Mr. K. C. Neogy: (a) Will the Honourable Member for War Transport please state if it is a fact that the benefit of passing "Subordinate Accounts Service Examination" earlier than seniors is granted to the comparatively junior incumbents in all the Accounts and Audit Departments of the Government of India in one form or another, and that no such facility is conceded in the Railway Accounts Departments?

(b) Is it a fact that in March, 1942, a representation was submitted to the Financial Commissioner of Railways to extend the said facility to the Railway Accounts Departments as well, and that final orders thereon have not yet been passed?

(c) When are orders likely to be passed on the above representation?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Yes. Some benefit for earlier passing of Subordinate Accounts Service Examination is being conceded in the Civil and Railway Audit Departments but not in the Railway Accounts Department.

(b) and (c) The Honourable Member is presumably referring to the representation received from the N W Railway Accounts staff in March 1948. The matter which involves detailed examination from different points of view is under the consideration of the Railway Board but it will be some time before final orders can be issued.

VISITS OF REGIONAL OFFICERS MEERUT, TO CERTAIN STATIONS ON SHAHDARA (DELHI) SAHARANPUR LIGHT RAILWAY

56. Mr. G. Rangiah Naidu: Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state

(a) if it is a fact that the Regional Food Controller, Meerut and the Regional Marketing Officer, Meerut, visited the Railway stations at Bhagpat Road, Baraut, Kandla, Shamli, etc., on the Shahdara (Delhi) Saharanpur Light Railway between the 1st August, 1942, and the 31st October, 1943, if so, on which dates and with what result, if not, what the true fact is;

(b) if it is a fact that the Inspector under those Regional Officers also visited those stations twice in a week during that period, if so, with what result, and, if not, what the true fact is, and

(c) if it is a fact that between the 1st August, 1942, and the 31st October, 1943, no prejudicial act against the movement by rails of goods has been reported by any of the Regional Officers and their Inspectors to the Railway Administration or to the Railway Board or to the Controller of Priorities, if not, when and to whom it was reported?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: A reference has been made to the Provincial Government concerned and a reply will be laid on the table on receipt of a reply from that Government.

PROHIBITION OF MOVEMENT OF SODA ASH AND FULLER'S EARTH ON CERTAIN STATIONS OF RAILWAYS

57. Mr. G. Rangiah Naidu: Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state whether it is a fact that the movement of soda ash and fuller's earth by rail for a distance beyond two hundred miles on stations on the East Indian Railway, from stations on the Shahdara (Delhi) Saharanpur Light Railway and from stations on the North Western Railway is prohibited? If so, under whose orders and for what reasons? If not, what is the correct fact?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The information is being collected and will be laid on the table in due course.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR RESERVATION OF BERTHS FOR MEMBERS OF CENTRAL LEGISLATURE ON NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

58. Mr. G. Rangiah Naidu: Will the Honourable Member for Railways please lay a statement on the table of the House of the instructions for the reservation of berths for the Members of the Central Legislature from stations on the North Western Railway particularly from Delhi and Lahore Railway stations? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: All Divisional Superintendents on the North Western Railway have received instructions to arrange to give all reasonable assistance to Honourable Members of the Legislative Assembly for the reservation of accommodation for their journeys to and from Assembly Sessions. The Divisional Superintendent, Delhi, has authorised the purchase of tickets by Honourable Members in advance of the date of the commencement of the journey, earlier than it is admissible to the general public, so as to enable Honourable Members to purchase their tickets and secure reserved accommodation with the minimum difficulty.

PROCEDURE RE BOOKING OF GOODS TRAFFIC

59. Mr. G. Rangiah Naidu: Will the Honourable Member for Railways please place on the table of the House a statement of the procedure prescribed and in force on Railways for the forwarding and booking of the goods traffic? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The general rules prescribed for the booking and forwarding of goods are contained in Chapter I of the Indian Railway Conference Association Goods Tariff No 26, a copy of which is in the Library of the House.

In regard to the actual supply of wagons, the attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the reply I gave in this House on 9th August, 1943, to Hajee Chowdhury Muhammad Ismail Khan's Starred Questions Nos 258 and 259.

REFUSAL OF RESERVATION OF BERTHS FROM LAHORE STATION FOR MEMBERS OF CENTRAL LEGISLATURE

60. Mr. G. Rangiah Naidu: Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state if it is a fact that reservation of berths from the Lahore station if and when desired by the Honourable Members of the Central Legislature, as a rule, was refused on the ground that there was no room? If so, why, and what useful purpose is served by giving notice of travel a week earlier?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The answer to the first part is in the negative. The Administration state that no specific complaint to this effect has come to their notice. The second part does not arise.

DISTRICT MAGISTRATES' DIRECTIONS TO CERTAIN RAILWAY STATION STAFF IN UNITED PROVINCE RE MOVEMENT BY RAIL OF COMMODITIES

61. Mr. G. Rangiah Naidu: Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state the dates on which the Railway staff at stations within the Meerut and Muzaffarnagar Districts of the United Provinces received directions issued from August, 1942 to date under Rule 81 of the Defence of India Act Rules by the District Magistrates for the movement by rail of commodities mentioned in the direction?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The information is not readily available and I regret I am not prepared to ask Railways to compile it, as such compilation for the large number of stations involved and for a period of some 27 months would entail an expenditure of time and labour which is not justified in present war time conditions.

MEETING OF REGIONAL FOOD CONTROLLER MEERUT, PRICE CONTROL OFFICERS MUZAFFARNAGAR ETC, AT DELHI

62. Mr. G. Rangiah Naidu: Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state

(a) if it is a fact that a meeting of the Regional Food Controller Meerut, Price Control Officers Muzaffarnagar, a representative of the North Western Railway and the Superintendent, Shahdara (Delhi) Saharanpur Light Railway took place at 5, Underhill Road, Delhi, on the 15th June, 1943, if so, what the proceedings of that meeting were, if not, what the true fact is;

(b) if it is a fact that the loading of through traffic by the Shahdara (Delhi) Saharanpur Light Railway to the North Western Railway is limited to an outside average of forty wagons per day, if not, what the true fact is,

(c) if it is a fact that the Regional Food Controller, Meerut, wrote to the Government for an increase in the "load off take" by the North Western Railway from the Shahdara (Delhi) Saharanpur Light Railway, if so, with what result, if not, what the correct fact is, and

(d) if it is a fact that a meeting of the Regional Food Controller Meerut, Superintendent Shahdara (Delhi) Saharanpur Light Railway and the Assistant Transportation Officer, North Western Railway, Delhi Division, was held on or about the 2nd September, 1943, in the office of the Divisional Superintendent, Delhi Division, North Western Railway, if so, what its proceedings were, if not, what the correct fact is?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) The reply to the first part is in the affirmative. As regards the second part the proceedings are confidential.

(b) The daily quota allotted to the Shahdara (Delhi) Saharanpur Light Railway is 26 N G wagons via Delhi Shahdara and 25 N G wagons via Saharanpur.

(c) The Regional Food Controller, Meerut is an Officer of the Provincial Government and I am not aware what correspondence he has had with his Government.

(d) As regards the first part, there is no record of any such meeting having been held in the office of the Divisional Superintendent, Delhi. The latter parts do not arise.

CHECKING AND AUDITING OF ACCOUNTS OF SHAHDARA (DELHI) SAHARANPUR LIGHT RAILWAY

63. Mr. G. Rangiah Naidu: Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state

(a) the arrangements of checking and auditing the accounts of the Shahdara (Delhi) Saharanpur Light Railway in 1938 and 1943,

(b) who is the person responsible for the Central Government for the accuracy of those accounts and their correct auditing,

(c) what the qualifications of the Auditors who audited and checked the station accounts in 1943 of that Railway were, and

(d) whether the staff of the Auditor General in India also made the statutory check and audit in 1943 of that Railway, if so, with what result?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Information is being obtained and will be placed on the table of the House as soon as received.

AMOUNT PER HEAD PAID IN KIND IN THE RAILWAY GRAIN SUPPLY SCHEME

64. Mr. G. Rangiah Naidu: Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state the amount per head paid in kind in the Grain Supply Scheme, to Railway servants, stating *inter alia* the expenditure of establishment and miscellaneous added to the actual cost of the grain purchased per maund?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I would refer the Honourable Member to my reply to Bhair Parmanand's Unstarred Question No. 37, asked in the Legislative Assembly on 6th November, 1944.

COMPLAINTS AGAINST HINDU REFRESHMENT ROOM AT DELHI RAILWAY STATION

65. Mr. G. Rangiah Naidu: Will the Honourable Member for Railways please lay on the table a list of the complaints received against the Hindu Refreshment Room at the Delhi Railway Station on the North Western Railway during the preceding two years and the action taken thereon?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Ten complaints were made against the Hindu Refreshment Room at Delhi Station, during the period from 1st November 1942 to 31st October 1944, of which five were, on enquiry, found to be unjustified and in the other five, the Contractor was warned.

REDUCING THE CAPACITY OF TEA CUP ON EAST INDIAN RAILWAY BY MESSRS. BALLABHDAS ESHWARDAS

66. Mr. G. Rangiah Naidu: Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state the reasons for reducing the capacity of tea cups from 10 ounces to 5 ounces against the increase in prices of a cup of tea on stations of the East Indian Railway vended and contracted by Messrs Ballabhdas Eshwardas?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I have called for information and the reply will be placed on the table of the House in due course

INCREASE OF PRICE OF TEA CUP ON EAST INDIAN RAILWAY BY MESSRS BALLABHDAS ESHWARDAS

67. Mr. G. Rangiah Naidu: Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state if it is a fact that the rate for a cup of tea sold by Ballabhdas Eshwardas on the East Indian Railway was increased from 0-1-0 to 0-1-6 whereas the North Western Railway refused to increase for the reasons that the present rate admitted of a large margin of profit (Item 10 of the Minutes of a meeting held in Lahore on the 27th May, 1944, of the Sub-committee of the North Western Railway Advisory Committee)?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The reply to the first part is in the affirmative. But the increase has not been confined to articles sold by Messrs Ballabhdas Eshwardas, as the prices of articles sold by other vending contractors have also been generally increased on the E I Railway. As regards the second part, the N W Railway have not agreed to increase the rate for tea because it was advised by its Local Advisory Committee that no increase in rates for tea was called for.

PROSECUTION OF ASSISTANT STATION MASTERS OF RAJPUTRA STATION

68. Mr. G. Rangiah Naidu: Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state

(a) if it is a fact that during the preceding six months two Assistant Station Masters of Rajputra station on the North Western Railway were prosecuted by the Government Railway Police Sub-Inspector, Ambala Cantonment under Section 353/332 of the Indian Penal Code, if so, whether any enquiry was made by the Divisional Superintendent, Delhi Division, North Western Railway, before they were suspended from their office on demand by the said Sub-Inspector, if no enquiry was made, the reasons therefor, if not, what the correct fact is,

(b) if it is a fact that during the preceding six months one Permanent Way Inspector, one Sub-Permanent Way Inspector and three or four Gangmen of Ambala Bent on the North Western Railway were prosecuted by the Government Railway Police Sub-Inspector, Delhi, under Section 353/332 of the Indian Penal Code and on the 30th October, 1944 they were discharged as the charge was not established against them by the Cantonment Magistrate, Ambala Cantonment, if so, whether the Divisional Superintendent made enquiries before they were made over to the Police for presentation in that court, if no enquiry was made, the reasons therefor,

(c) whether the Divisional Superintendent, Delhi Division, North Western Railway made the necessary arrangements for the defence of the Railway servants accused in those cases for offences alleged to have been committed while on duty against the police constables who were in uniforms, if no arrangements have been made, the reasons therefor, and

(d) the amount re-imbursed to those Railway servants who incurred expenditure for their defence and for securing acquittal, if no amount has yet been paid, the reasons therefor?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) The reply to the first part is in the affirmative. As regards the latter portion, no enquiry was considered necessary.

(b) I would refer the Honourable Member to my reply to Unstarred Question No 19 asked by Mr Muhammad Azhar Ali on 1st November, 1944. No enquiry was considered necessary.

(c) The reply to the first part is in the negative As regards the second part, it is not obligatory to do so, nor was it considered necessary

(d) No claim for disbursement of expenses has so far been preferred by the staff concerned

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT

FORCING THE KOLHAPUR DURBAR TO ACCEPT DETERIORATED FOODGRAINS

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) I have received from 12 Noon. Mr G V Deshmukh a motion for adjournment of the business of the Assembly relating to "the action of the Government of India in forcing the Kolhapur Durbar to accept foodgrains much of which was unfit for human consumption".

Has the Honourable Member obtained the consent of the Governor General to his motion?

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh (Nagpur Division Non-Muhammadian) No, Sir It came to my notice only last evening

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) When was this done?

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: A statement was made on November 6th at Kolhapur by the Judicial Minister, who is connected with the Food Advisory Council, to the effect that "nearly two lacs of bags of foodgrains were in stock but much of it was unfit for human consumption The Durbar had no choice but to accept whatever grain was supplied by the Government of India"

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) The Honourable Member ought to have obtained the consent of the Governor General first

Mr. Sri Prakasa (Allahabad and Jhansi Divisions Non-Muhammadian Rural) The matter may be adjourned and taken up tomorrow How is it possible to obtain prior consent when one learns about a thing the same morning?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) Honourable Member ought to know what the rules are The Honourable Member should have applied for the consent of the Governor General and if there was delay in obtaining it, could have explained to the House that the delay was due to that That would have been the proper procedure The motion under the circumstances is not in order

THE PUBLIC DEBT (CENTRAL GOVERNMENT) BILL—*contd*

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) The House will now proceed with the discussion of the Motion moved by the Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: (Sind Non-Muhammadian Rural) Sir, I rise to continue my speech of yesterday The question before the House is whether the securities could be given by the bank on presentation of a certificate from a District Magistrate or whether the bank should insist upon getting a certificate from a court I have shown and the Honourable Members who moved their amendments have shown that it will be quite sufficient if the District Magistrate certifies that the person who applies for the certificates after the death of the original holder is a member of the joint family and is also its manager Then there should be no objection in giving him the securities This is a question which affects the joint Hindu family and I fully sympathise with my friend Mr Sri Prakasa for his pleading that those customs and manners of the Hindu joint family which have held good for so long should not be disturbed I am glad to note one thing that in spite of the Western wave that has come in, my Honourable friend has not been carried away by it My Honourable friend Mr. Sri Prakasa in spite of his sojourn in England has not been swayed away from our customs and manners in spite of this Western wave But does he know that there are other friends of his, like Dr Jayakar and Dr Deshmukh, who profess to be Hindus now and Hindus even after death, are responsible for disintegrating this society of the joint Hindu family Dr Jayakar had put in a Bill to say that if a member of a Hindu joint family has secured his professional career by the

help of the joint family property, his earnings should not be considered to be the income of the joint family

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) The Honourable Member must confine himself to the Bill

Mr. Lalchand Navabhai: In like manner the Hindu customs and manners are being disintegrated. Now what I am submitting is this. So far as this Bill is concerned a question has been asked by my friend, the Honourable Baronet, as to what is the prejudice against giving a certificate from a court. My Honourable friend has been a member of the Executive Council and also belongs to commercial societies but perhaps he does not know what is happening in courts and therefore does not recognise the cause of the prejudice against courts. For a certificate of a court you have to go to a lawyer and you know how his clerks and others will fleece you first. Then come to the fees of the lawyer and in the court you have to pay stamp duty. They say that there is no stamp to be paid but that is afterwards, not until the certificate is received. But in the first place he pays all costs and also all other things that he has to pay before he gets a certificate. And then there is the delay, which takes away the very purpose or object of the measure. Therefore there is so much of difference between getting a certificate from a District Magistrate and one from a court. In the former case the procedure is very simple. The District Magistrate is supposed to know the joint families in his jurisdiction and as such there will not be much difficulty in getting a certificate from him. So far as that certificate is concerned, if it is obtained, then the responsibility of the bank has gone, because if there are rivals, it will be a question between those rivals. But if satisfactory guarantees are given to the bank and the bank gives away the money, then the question will be between those rivals and they will naturally go to court to establish their own interests. In that way it is most prejudicial to go to court.

It has been said that no court fees will be paid on the certificate when it is obtained from the court. My friend Mr. Sethna quoted one authority, but there are several authorities to show that court fee has to be paid, in practice actually, it is being paid in several courts. But apart from that what does the Succession Act itself say? In that Act there is no provision that the certificate has to be obtained in a joint family by the manager or a member of the family and the practice is also the same. When we go to the civil court asking for a certificate the reply is that the Act does not apply and that the joint family does not require any certificate. If that is so, the Succession Act requires to be amended. What we get is this: we get an order from the court that no certificate in a joint family is needed. Then when we get that order to any authority or any person and show that, we get our money and the transaction is done. In the like manner there should not be much difficulty in doing so.

Then I would like to say a word with regard to limitation. It has been shown that if this is a trust, then certainly section 10 of the Limitation Act which says that no time bar will be recognised in case of trusts will apply, but then I must say very clearly that that section refers to specific trusts. If it is a specific trust, then no limitation can apply. But in any other case, if it is a deposit then article 60 of the Limitation Act applies, and until and unless you make a demand it remains a deposit even for any number of years. It is only when you make a demand—it is three years from that date that are required for coming to court. Therefore there is no question of limitation also involved in this matter. The matter is very simple. We want convenience, we want there should not be any prolonged or protracted proceedings to obtain a certificate and then to receive our own money. It is nobody else's money, if the manager has died, then another manager must have it, the members of the family should have it without any inconvenience, otherwise it will be that people will not invest their money in securities and that will be detrimental to the banks and to the Government. Therefore I hope these amendments that have been tabled will be accepted.

Mr. N. C. Chunder (Calcutta Non-Muhammadan Urban) Mr. President, several amendments have been suggested to this Bill. Just at the present moment I do not think other clauses need our attention more than clauses T

[Mr N C Chunder]

and 44, because to my mind they do show a departure by Government from the principles which have hitherto been accepted as principles guiding the relation between the Crown and its subjects.

First, let me take clause 24. There is nothing in the Indian Limitation Act which prevents Government from pleading limitation and therefore there is no question that even now Government can plead limitation.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir (Bombay City Non-Muhammadan Urban) How many years can they plead now?

Mr. N. C. Chunder: Any time, just as you and I can plead limitation, Government can plead limitation.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: Three years?

Mr. N. C. Chunder: Three years, yes, where three years rule applies, six years where six years rule applies and twelve years where twelve years rule applies. It is only when the Government brings the suit they get sixty years. So far as Government is concerned, as against Government any suit is barred within the ordinary period of limitation. So it is not that they are going to add anything new, but as you are aware, limitation does not end the right, it merely bars the remedy, it does not extinguish the right, and so it has always been that when the Crown deals with its own creditors, the Crown never plead limitation, for after all limitation has to be pleaded and the Crown never pleads limitation for the simple reason that the Crown does not say, "Yes, the right may be there, but your remedy has been barred, therefore I will not recognise your right." That is a position which the Crown never takes and that is why clause 24 is being sought to be introduced today, because there they will create a sort of prescription, they will say, "it is true that it is almost ridiculous for Government to plead limitation, but what can we do? Here is a statute which says that after 12 years we are not to recognise any claim on this security." That is why clause 24 is being brought in. It is to create a sort of prescription in favour of Government, and that, I think, is a departure from the principle which has hitherto been accepted not only in this country, not only in the United Kingdom, but all over the world, so far as the relation between the state and its subjects are concerned. I do not know whether that is the real motive underlying it, but save on this ground I cannot conceive of any other reason why clause 24 has at all been brought into this Bill.

Then with regard to clause 7, the rule was there. In the first place, this proviso was there. It has been said that it was with regard to renewal of a promissory note—it was not for substitution, but it was in case of renewal. But after all the difference is a difference between Tweedledum and Tweedledee, and Tweedledee is easier to pronounce than Tweedledum, perhaps, because after all you get a renewed promissory note in the name of the new manager. So much the better. Nobody is affected with notice of anybody's prior right. So much the better for the family. So, whether it is renewal or whether it is substitution, the difference is merely academic and it did not at all make any practical difference one way or the other. But the rule was there. After all that was the principle which Government has hitherto accepted, and I will give you the reason why Government accepted that. It is said "Well, you can take out letters of administration at no cost." Supposing I do take out letters of administration I agree with my Honourable friend, Mr Sethna, that there is no bar in the sense that there is no question of jurisdiction. The court can grant me the letters of administration even though the property belongs to a Mitakshara family. But they have not looked into the effect of section 211 which my Honourable friend, Mr Avnashilingam Chettiar read out to the House. I shall read it out and I will put my own interpretation on it. This section 211 had never fallen to be considered for the simple reason that it had not been to the interests of Government, it had not been to the interests of anybody, unless he would be a member of the Mitakshara joint family to raise this question, but the question is, assuming that you do get letters of administra-

tration entitling you to recover the amount on the promissory note, can you get it lawfully? Does it confer on the administrator any title to that money? I say—decidedly not, on section 211. If you read section 211, it says

“When the deceased was a Hindu, Muhammadan, Sikh or Jaina or an exempted person, nothing herein contained shall vest in an executor or administrator any property of the deceased person which would otherwise have passed by survivorship to some other person.”

Nothing, not even the grant of letters of administration would vest in the administrator any right to the Government promissory notes, if they actually belonged to the Mitakshara joint family. So this clause was put in. In those days I must say that legislation used to be conducted more carefully. In these days they are conducted in a very haphazard way. It may be our fault. But some how or other, people who framed laws in those days considered that they were responsible, it may be, because they had no popular criticism until the Bill actually became law. You, Sir, have very much wider experience than any of us can ever hope to attain. You must have seen that most of the Bills drafted now would suffer very much by comparison with the previous legislation. In fact, there have been tamts made by courts off and on. They say ‘We do not know what the legislature meant but we have to give the section some sensible meaning. So let it be so and so’. Things like that have happened. You see that that is one of the reasons why Government in order to protect itself more than to protect the joint family provided that. It is not the case reported in A. I. R. 1942 Lahore which decided for the first time but there were earlier decisions that so far as the joint Mitakshara family is concerned, if the Government promissory notes had passed by survivorship, then they would attract what now has become section 250 of the Indian Succession Act but which in those days was in the Probate and Administration Act. So far as that section is concerned, section 250 or its corresponding section in the Probate and Administration Act, when that Act was in force, would be attracted and so no duty would be payable. In fact, section 19D of the Court Fees Act also says something to that effect. It means this—that even if you leave aside in your affidavit of assets these Government promissory notes it would not harm you. Even then the executor or administrator can recover the money. But leave that aside. That is not the point that we are considering. Why is it that even in 1920, when the Indian Securities Act was passed this proviso was retained. It was for this reason that even with letters of administration you may be safe or you may not be safe. Possibly the courts may say ‘Well, it does not matter. Here is a third party who has paid the money in accordance with the letters of administration. He being an innocent party is not responsible for it. He cannot be made liable to pay over again.’ That may be so or that may not be so. That is a point, however, which it would be difficult to express any opinion on the floor of this House, as you yourself will realise and there may be points of view which may be urged against this view—that even though an innocent party, if he had noticed that somebody was clanking, he would not be safe. That is a point which does not arise now. These difficulties may arise and that is why this protection was made. Let there be some authority which Government appoints. Let him go into the matter. If that authority says—so and so is the representative of the joint family, let the money be paid to so and so, and there is an end to it. So, when Government thinks that that was for the benefit of the Mitakshara joint family, Government ignores that it was more for the benefit of Government itself. For these two reasons, I shall certainly to the extent of my influence that I have in this House resist the passing of clause 7 and clause 24 in the form in which they have been brought before this House.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman (Finance Member) Sir, I would like to be brief and to be practical in dealing with the points which have been raised in this debate on the consideration motion. I must admit that a good deal more has been said than I anticipated, and I wish to assure the House that it was no part of Government's intention to make any important change in the existing law. Our main object was to produce a simple codification of the present provisions and to adjust them only to the extent necessary to meet

[Sir Jeremy Raisman.]

the changed conditions arising from the greater extent to which Government debt is now held in the form of stock certificates

The three main points on which interest is concentrated are those which were raised by my Honourable friend Mr Sri Prakasa. I may say straightaway that I am perfectly prepared to maintain the existing position in regard to all those three points. It follows from that that as regards the first point, namely, receiving of notice of trust, I shall not be able to make any change. That is the present position and as far as I am aware it has always been the position, that notice of trust is not receivable in respect of a Government security. It is not merely a matter of the extreme inconvenience to the agent who is to manage the public debt if he is liable to be involved in litigation regarding the exact beneficiaries of the property in question, but it is also, I believe, the case that, if a notice of trust were receivable, it would militate very greatly against the negotiability of securities. It would mean that the purchaser of a security would never know with whom he has to deal, it would mean that the purchaser of a security might be involved in having to go behind the actual individual in whose name the security is held and that would be a serious disadvantage to the community at large as well as to the owners of Government securities.

It has been pointed out by my Honourable friend Mr Setluna that such abatement as is possible of the rigour of this provision has, in fact been provided in sub-clause (2) which enables the Bank as an act of grace and without any liability to record in its books such directions by the holder of the security for the payment of interest on or the maturity value of or the transfer of the security as the Bank thinks fit. That means to say that for all practical purposes the Bank can accept instructions so long as it is not involved thereby in the legal consequences of having accepted notice of a trust.

On the other two points—clauses 7 and 24—I am prepared to reproduce the position as it actually exists today. But I must point out that that means that the amendments which have been proposed will have to be carefully considered. Even the amendment of my Honourable friend Mr Krishnamachari will require some slight change because the existing concession relates only to the renewal of a promissory note, and it also provides for the acceptance of a certificate after such inquiry as may be prescribed. Those two features are not contained in Mr Krishnamachari's amendment.

Mr. N. C. Chunder: Have you noted Mr Neogy's amendment?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Yes, I have noted that amendment and I shall make a suggestion in a minute or two.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari (Tanjore *cum* Trichinopoly Non-Muhammadan Rural) So far as your latter objection is concerned, it is stated in the amendment—by such authority as may be prescribed—and then you can prescribe the method of inquiry also.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I do not think that is quite correct. The power to prescribe the authority would not connote the power to prescribe the inquiry. However as I shall suggest in a moment, these amendments will require a little time for consideration. I am going to ask, if you will agree, Sir that we do not today proceed to the clauses but we go on with the other business so as to enable me to prepare amendments which will be, I hope, agreeable to the House and will thus expedite the business of the House.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) I would agree unless there be any objection on the part of Honourable Members. Some Members might say that they have been taken by surprise as they expected the Bill to go on. If there is no objection, further consideration of the Bill will stand over and the House will proceed to the next motion on the list.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: May I ask whether

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I am not yet finished. I have got to deal with clause 24. Since I have been asked some questions on this clause, I had better explain what I have in mind at this moment. As regards this

clause, the simple position, as I understand it, is that at the present moment there is no specific limitation with regard to the amount payable on the maturity of a security. There is no limitation in fact, in regard to the principal of a security. There is at the present time a limitation in regard to claims for interest, the limitation is six years. Well, Sir, the Select Committee was prepared to have a simple limitation for 12 years applicable to both principal and interest but that has been widely criticised in the House and, as I said a little time ago, Government has no desire to make any substantive change in the rights of holders of securities. I am, therefore, prepared to amend clause 24 so as to preserve the existing position, that is to say, to remove any provision for a limitation of the principal amount and to restrict the limitation of claims for payment of interest to six years, which is the present position.

The last speaker very rightly pointed out that legislation of this kind has to be drafted with great care and although I have already with me drafts which would carry out the amendments which I am prepared to put before the House, I suggest that it would be very much in the public interest that we should not proceed immediately to the clauses. But if time could be given tomorrow, I think I can explain these amendments to Honourable Members who have studied the matter and secure that the measure is dealt with in a suitable form tomorrow.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar (Salem and Coimbatore *cum* North Arcot Non-Muhammadan Rural) Does not amendment No. 12 meet the situation?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: No, it does not meet the situation because part of the ground covered by that amendment has now been absorbed into clauses 12 and 19. The only thing that is left is the point of limitation, which can be dealt with more simply by an amendment of clause 24.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: May I ask the Honourable Member whether, in connection with the point of recognising trusts, any change can be made in this Bill, even if the Honourable Member was willing and the House wanted it? So far as I can make out you could not make that change in this Bill.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: The only thing that could have been attempted in this Bill I suppose, was to remove from the Public Debt Authority the freedom which it has enjoyed up to this time, not to receive notices of trusts. That is all that could be done, no more positive provision than that could be made.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: That would not meet the point of view of the Opposition.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: No, it would not.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum (North-West Frontier Province General) If there does exist a provision about limitation regarding interest, and if it is the desire of the Government not to bring about any change, would it not be advisable to leave out this new clause altogether, and be content with the law as it is?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: In order to reproduce the existing position, it will have to be provided that the limitation is to six years, because this Bill will supersede the present Indian Securities Act in which that limitation is embodied.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: May I ask whether the limitation of six years is applied now for the payment of interest?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Yes.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: So far as I can remember, I got interest for 25 years on a piece of paper which I had forgot all about. How is it that I got that interest?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: It is possible that *ex-gratia* payments have been made. As my Honourable friend Mr. Chunder pointed out, Government do not always stand on their legal rights.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: But such a provision would make them stand on their legal rights.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: It is already the position under sections 19 and 18A of the Securities Act. There is that limitation.

"The Government shall be discharged from all liability in respect of the security (a) in the case of payment—after the lapse of six years from the date on which payment was due."

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: They can do it if they want to. I hope that power will not be taken away.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) The question is

"That the Bill to consolidate and amend the law relating to Government securities issued by the Central Government and to the management by the Reserve Bank of India of the public debt of the Central Government, as reported by the Select Committee, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim)¹ I have no objection to the consideration of the Bill clause by clause being postponed and the next item on the agenda being taken up if that is the general desire on the part of the House.

Several Honourable Members: Yes, the consideration of this Bill clause by clause can be postponed.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) The next item is in the name of the Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar.

THE INDIAN TRADE UNIONS (AMENDMENT) BILL

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar (Labour Member) I do not propose to make the motion* that stands in my name.

THE INSURANCE (SECOND AMENDMENT) BILL

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque (Member for Commerce, Industries and Civil Supplies) Sir, I move

"That the Bill further to amend the Insurance Act, 1938 (Second Amendment) be referred to a Select Committee consisting of Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai, Mr. Abdul Qayyum, Mr. N. C. Chunder, Mr. Satya Narayan Sinha, Mr. Muhammad Naiman, Mr. H. A. Sathar, H. Essak Sait, Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan, Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta, Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari, Mr. T. Chapman Mortimer, Mr. E. L. C. Gault, Rai Bahadur Sir Seth Bhaghard Soni, Sir Vithal N. Chandavalkar, Sir Abdul Halim Ghalib, A. Laljee, Mr. L. S. Vaidyanathan and the Mover and that the whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the Committee."

Sir, in view of certain amendments which have been tabled, let me explain the purpose of this Bill. The Insurance Act was passed in 1938. Some substantial amendments were made in the Act in 1941. But the administration of the Act brought to light several flaws and defects and lacunae. We tried to change it by an Amending Act of 1944 to remove only two of these defects. But in the meantime, the war the financial structure of the country and the wealth which has accumulated in certain sections have brought about a situation in which the insurance business has fared exceedingly well and there are now many more policy holders with many more companies and in a much stronger position. As a result of that, we feel that the other defects which are vital should not be allowed to remain on the statute book, but that some changes should be made in the law existing for the time being. As Honourable Members are aware there is an Insurance Advisory Committee consisting of representatives of insurance interests in the country and also of persons nominated from among those connected with insurance business and others which have been provided for in the Act. We consulted this Committee and this Committee is in substantial agreement with most of the provisions which are now brought before the House. They aim firstly at affording more protection to the policy holders, secondly, making the insurance companies financially more stable thirdly, eradicating some of the unhealthy practices which

*That this Assembly do recommend to the Council of State that the Bill further to amend the Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926, be referred to a Joint Committee of this Assembly and of the Council of State and that the Joint Committee do consist of Members."

hamper the healthy growth of insurance business in the country. The House will see that the important amendments provide for.

- (i) separate investment of assets in the life insurance fund,
- (ii) raising the life fund to an amount equal to the liabilities under life insurance policies before registering an insurance company for other classes of insurance business, e.g., fire, accident, marine,
- (iii) restricting the amount of commission payable to employers of insurance agents, e.g., Chief Agents, and the terms of their contract,
- (iv) assessing solvency or otherwise of a life insurance company or provident society without taking into account its uncalled capital,
- (v) cancellation of registration of an insurance company or provident society which delays beyond a certain period payment of a claim after it has been adjudicated in a court of law,
- (vi) preventing insurance companies and provident societies from remunerating their executive heads, managers, managing directors, etc., on a commission profit sharing basis,
- (vii) taking away from the scope of Married Women's Property Act, 1874, nominations in favour of wife and children made under section 39 of the Insurance Act, and
- (viii) the transfer and amalgamation of provident societies with the sanction of the Superintendent of Insurance.

These are some of the main features of the Bill. I will not take up much of the time of the House except to explain a few features which we are finding at present difficult. For example under the existing law a foreign insurance company has to submit annually a statement showing the assets held by such insurance company in India and audited by a person duly qualified under the law of the insurer's country. Similarly, clause (h) requires the revenue account of such an insurer to be audited by such an auditor. There is no provision by which any statement of account of a company operating in India being audited by an auditor qualified only under the provisions of the Indian Companies Act. The result is that, as we have seen in war time, if it is a Canadian company or a New Zealand company or any other foreign company outside India, its account is to be prepared in India and sent to the countries of these companies being audited by their qualified Accountants.

This means inevitable delay for a very long time. I feel, Sir, that it is inconsistent with the present position of India that Indian auditors qualified under the Indian Companies Act should not be allowed to audit the accounts of foreign companies as they are able to audit the accounts of big Indian Insurance companies in this country. Similarly there is a provision applicable to a non-British Indian insurance company requiring them to submit revenue account in respect of Indian business in the form set forth in the Third Schedule. On a comparison with section 11 (1) (c), the corresponding section applicable to British Indian insurers, it is found that the words "in accordance with the regulations contained in Part I of the Third Schedule" do not find a place in section 16 (2) (b), though they occur in section 11 (1) (c). This has been taken advantage of by some U.K. and foreign insurance to whom section 16 applies and interpreted to mean that they are not bound to follow the regulations in Part I of the Third Schedule and that only British Indian insurers have to follow them. The result is that information regarding gross premium income under regulation 7 and statements in Forms DD, DDD and DDDD are not supplied by some of the foreign insurers.

From the debates in the Legislative Assembly during the passage of the original Insurance Bill, it appears that Members then understood that the information under Regulation 7 regarding gross income was to be given by U.K. and other insurers also. After the Bill was passed by the Assembly, it was examined in this Department and the discrepancy was noticed. An amendment to bring in line was suggested but the amendment was overlooked and not introduced in the Council of State. I feel today that we should try to rectify this omission and bring it in line with the intention of the Legislature as when the Insurance Act was passed in 1937.

[Sir M. Azizul Huque]

Then, Sir, there is one difficulty which we are experiencing in the administration of the Insurance Act. Section 29 prohibits the grant of loans and advances to any other company or firm if there are common directors. In other words, one insurance company cannot grant a loan or advance to another company with a common director. Somehow or other, as the legal interpretation stands, it satisfies the law if exactly at the time when the loan was granted there was no common director. And we have seen a case in which there was a common director who retired for some time, the loan was granted and very soon after he came back. (A voice "After one hour.") One hour or one week is all the same for the purpose of the Act. I feel that that is not desirable and it should not be allowed in the interest of insurance business in this country.

Again, in connection with winding-up proceedings, the Superintendent of Insurance, where he is satisfied that a company is not able to manage its own affairs, can prefer an application to the relevant court for winding-up proceedings. Against any decision the party concerned can file an appeal, but if for some reason or other the Superintendent of Insurance is not satisfied with the decision of the lower court he has no power of appeal. The result is that in many cases owing to some legal defect it is not possible for the Superintendent of Insurance to take proper action.

Then again there are cases where under the present law the managing agent or manager or other officer of an insurance company who properly obtains or wrongfully withholds or wilfully misapplies any property belonging to the insurance company can be prosecuted, but for the purpose of this prosecution, it can be done only by the insurance company or by a policy holder. There was some time ago a case where the managing director of an insurance company misappropriated the funds of the company to the extent of one lakh of rupees. When this misappropriation was discovered the managing director was able to square up with all concerned near about him and no further proceedings were taken against him. We feel that the Superintendent of Insurance should have power to file a complaint, in the interest of the insurance companies and also, in the interest of the large body of policy holders concerned. The present law does not give him that power and we feel that it is time when he should have that power, in a proper case where private proceedings are not taken, to take action against the managing director of a company. After all it is necessary to safeguard the interests of the large bulk of policy holders who have no organised opinion of their own for the time being in many cases.

Then we want to take power to see that the managing director should not be able to nominate his successor. We have come across a case where a company entered into a contract with its managing director for a term of 15 years on a very liberal remuneration basis. He was allowed to retire during the term and nominate his successor for the balance of the term on the same remuneration. Now human nature being what it is, one may not be able to find out a successor of the same calibre as the managing director himself, but surely it is not right in the interest of the insurance financial structure of this country that the managing director should have the power to nominate his successor, specially in cases where very liberal terms are offered to him.

Mr. T. Chapman-Mortimer (Bengal European): May I know the date of that particular incident?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: About three years ago.

Sir, there are other provisions in the Bill which go into the structure of insurance business of this country. I will only add one word with regard to section 10. At present an insurance company carrying on life insurance business is not obliged to keep the assets corresponding to life insurance fund separate from its other assets. Keeping of separate assets belonging to the life insurance fund is, however, necessary in the interest of holders of life insurance policies. It is therefore proposed to insert a provision making it

obligatory for insurance companies to keep such assets as distinct from other assets.

Again we have seen cases where an insurance company is not able, or has not enough finance, to pay its policy holders. There have been cases in court and judgments passed, yet no payment has been made; but the company is still merrily functioning and issuing new life policies. It is not in the interest of the financial structure of this country that insurance companies which should take immediate and prompt steps to pay a policy holder should not pay him and yet continue to function and issue new policies.

Then there are other detailed points as regards the paid-up capital and what should constitute paid-up capital and what capital, for the purpose of considering the solvency of the company, should be taken into consideration. One main feature of this Bill is to bring about a demarcation between provident fund societies and insurance companies, and the Bill seeks to provide this no man's land.

I do not think I need narrate the other circumstances. I propose that all these matters and questions of principle should be carefully considered by the Select Committee. I have no intention of hurrying this thing through. I am quite prepared to consider any point of view which may be raised, but I believe the time has come when all these questions of principle should be properly considered in a Select Committee of this House.

Sir, I move

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Motion moved.

"That the Bill further to amend the Insurance Act, 1938 (Second Amendment) be referred to a Select Committee consisting of Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai, Mr. Abdul Qayyum, Mr. N. C. Chunder, Mr. Satya Narayan Sinha, Mr. Muhammad Nauman, Mr. H. A. Sathar, H. Essak Sait, Sir Mohammad Yamin Khan, Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta, Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari, Mr. T. Chapman-Mortimer, Mr. E. L. C. Gwill, Rai Bahadur Sir Seth Bhagchand Soni, Sir Vithal N. Chandavarkar, Sir Abdul Halim Ghumavi, Mr. Hossain-bhoy A. Laljee, Mr. L. S. Vaidyanathan and the Mover and that the number of members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the Committee shall be five."

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari (Tanjore *cum* Trichinopoly Non-Muhammadan Rural). Sir, I move

"That the Bill be circulated for the purpose of eliciting public opinion thereon by the 31st January, 1945."

I should like to make it clear at the outset that this is not intended to be a dilatory motion. I have no intention of staying the hands of Government in this matter. But I think the House is aware that on this question of the Insurance Act Government have not been able to evolve an Act which will meet any situation as and when it arises. On the last occasion, in 1941, the then Commerce Member when he brought in an amending Bill in this House said that the House would probably be seeing the last of these amendments. But the Honourable Member now in charge of Commerce has again to bring in another amending Bill. So far as the Bill itself is concerned, I am assured by the interests concerned that there are many provisions which they would probably be welcome with suitable amendments. But on account of the very nature of this amending Bill which seeks to cover a very wide field, I think the Select Committee, unless it is going to be fortified with the opinion of the interests concerned, will not be able to adequately deal with the various provisions of the Bill before us. I should like to state that there are certain clauses which are perhaps very necessary but they are very ambiguous. Take, for instance, clause 16 on which the Honourable the Mover laid stress. Perhaps it

is very desirable but at the same time it seems to serve to lay an embargo on the appointment of a successor to a manager or a managing director altogether in so far as the man who retires has some voice or any say in it. It is rather vague as it stands today.

Again, there are provisions like clause 20 which would need very careful examination. I am glad, Sir, that the Honourable Member has mentioned that he will not hurry the Select Committee and perhaps he will also allow the Select Committee to take evidence provided the interests concerned are prepared to give evidence before the Select Committee. But, I think, on the

[Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari.]
 whole the interests will be best served by a postponement of this Bill to 31st January, 1945 by which time, I believe, the interests concerned can send in their opinions, and for the Select Committee to meet thereafter.

I do not know if the Honourable Member will have something to say about this aspect of the matter, but I have moved this motion for the purpose of telling this House that so far as the interests involved are concerned, they have not made up their mind and though they welcome many provisions of the Bill they feel that great scrutiny is necessary and their interests will best be served by a circulation motion rather than by allowing the Select Committee to consider it straightaway Sir, I move.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) Amendment moved:

"That the Bill be circulated for the purpose of eliciting public opinion thereon by the 31st January, 1945"

Sir Vithal N. Chandavarkar (Bombay Millowners' Association. Indian Commerce): Sir, whenever a motion for circulation is moved; my instinct is always to support it, but in this case I believe and I know that the Commerce Department especially the Honourable the Commerce Member has taken particular care to have previous consultations with all interests concerned who have made a special study of this highly technical question

Sir, I am not at all 'at home' with all the technicalities of the matter, but my information is based on the advice given to me by certain insurance experts from Bombay that on the whole this Bill should be supported and that there should be no delay in enacting the measure. If any question of principle had been brought forward by my Honourable friend, Mr. Krishnamachari, which went to the root of the Bill, I think the House would have been well advised to accept this motion for circulation, but as he has only asked for postponement on the ground that further consideration is necessary, and on the other hand he has welcomed the Bill and he has not attacked any underlying principle of the Bill, I think the best thing for the House would be to support the motion made by the Honourable the Commerce Member

I believe the meeting of the Select Committee will not be called till the Budget Session. The Bill has been widely circulated and we can go back to our constituencies, especially the Commerce interests, and ask them to fortify us with their views. I am glad, Sir, the Honourable the Commerce Member has provided a very wide basis for the constitution of the Select Committee and those of us who are in the Select Committee can come back to with all the suggestions we receive from our constituencies and place them before the Select Committee. Moreover, in view of the very sympathetic attitude of the Honourable the Commerce Member, I am sure that reasonable suggestions will be acceptable to Government. I have also certain suggestions to make which I shall place before the Select Committee. I shall not take the time of the House except to request this House to accept the motion for reference to a Select Committee

Mr. Lalchand Navalsai (Sind Non-Muhammadian Rural) Sir, I have very few words to say. . .

The Honourable Sir M. Asisul Haque: It is a relief!

Mr. Lalchand Navalsai: To you? All right, I will give you more relief then.

Sir, I rise in the interest of younger companies as I feel that some justice should be done to them. There are two propositions before the House—one is for circulation of the Bill and the other is for referring it to the Select Committee. Personally I do not feel myself competent to say whether sufficient opportunity has been afforded to the commercial interests to examine the Bill or not, but I should be happy if the Bill is circulated for eliciting public opinion because in any case it is not a dilatory motion, for it is not going to be considered by the Select Committee within the next few days

Sir, I find that young companies have been given some relief in the sense that they have been allowed to give a certain amount of money to the Chief

Agent and the agents. But I would like to draw the attention of the Select Committee to this question when it is considered by them that this relief, which I have mentioned, should not be nullified by any other body. The Honourable Member knows, and the House knows too, that there are certain associations dominating these insurance companies. They take groups of insurance companies in their fold and then give instructions and even lay down the rates of commission which should be given to the Chief Agent and agents. Therefore, if the effect of these provisions is nullified by these extraneous companies, the interests of younger companies will be adversely affected. Therefore I would like to suggest to the Honourable Member that a proviso should be inserted, namely, 'notwithstanding those other companies the provisions of this Bill will be carried'—to safeguard against that. At present if you allow 20 per cent for agents to the younger companies and if those under whom they work and who dominate them ask them to give lesser, in that case the benefit that you are giving under this Bill will be nullified.

Then, Sir, under the Act, no maximum is laid down in respect of what they should give to the Chief Agent. But now it has been provided that the maximum rate would be 20 per cent for old companies and 22½ per cent for younger companies. I would suggest that for younger companies it should be raised to 25. My reason for suggesting this increase is to enable younger companies to secure the services of good Chief Agents who will not otherwise be attracted to younger companies. Under the present Bill if the maximum is fixed at 20 per cent and 22½ per cent for Chief Agents of old and young companies respectively, the Chief Agents of the younger companies will be able to keep for themselves only 10 per cent which is just the same as in the case of Chief Agents of old companies. Unless therefore some further attraction is offered, no good firms would be willing to come forward to work for younger companies. This perhaps was also the view of the non-official Advisory Committee on Insurance, their opinion was that it should be given more than 22½ per cent. Considering all these interests of the younger company, I hope the Honourable Member in charge and the members of the Select Committee will not overlook the two points I have specially brought to the notice of the House.

Mr. M. M. Joshi (Nominated Non-Official) May I ask for some information? Some clauses of this Bill refer to Provident Societies and I would like to know from the Honourable Member whether in the consultations which he held before he introduced this Bill, he consulted any representatives of Provident Societies. What is likely to happen is that when the Government of India is thinking of changing this Insurance law, it is quite possible that the interests of these small societies may not be looked after. Whenever Government hold consultations they consult big Insurance companies and it is quite likely that the interests of the small Insurance companies which are not intended for profit-making may suffer. I would like the Honourable Member to tell me whether representatives of the Provident Societies have been consulted before the Bill was introduced.

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Guntur cum Nellore Non-Muhammadan Rural) I rise to oppose the Bill as a whole and for this reason. Even when the original Bill was brought before this House I raised the point that it is the duty of any Government which has the interests of the people at heart to nationalise this industry, this highly remunerative industry, so that it would be possible for the Government to come into possession of adequate funds for any schemes of reconstruction it may have on hand. Sir, the Reconstruction Committee of the Executive Council has suggested certain schemes which are expected to cost not less than Rs. 1,000 crores in post-war times, and it suggests that a large portion of this money can be obtained through floating loans in this country and encouraging the public to lend to it so that it could be possible for it to finance its reconstruction schemes. What better source of income for such reconstruction schemes can there be than these constantly growing funds,

[Prof N G Ranga]
these accumulating funds of the Insurance companies and insurance business? Why is it that the Government which is anxious to launch upon these very costly and enormously costly reconstruction schemes, does not even consider the idea of nationalising this industry and why is it that Government even though it is prepared to appoint special experts to study the various defects that have come to light in the working of this Act and this profit-making industry has not chosen to appoint two experts to work out a plan for the nationalisation of this industry? I could understand the present position if Government had examined the matter in a scientific and systematic manner with the aid of the requisite experts and in consultation with the interests of commercial concerns in this country and the general public and then came to the conclusion that the nationalisation of this industry is either not advisable or practicable. But they have not made any such effort till now. It is easy for my Honourable friend to think that this suggestion may not be considered very seriously, but it is wrong for him to do so because even in this country there is a precedent The Government of Mysore. . . .

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) The Honourable Member may continue his speech after lunch

Th Assembly then adjourned for Lunch till Half Past Two of the Clock

The Assembly reassembled after Lunch at Half Past Two of the Clock.
Mr Deputy President (Mr Akhil Chandra Datta) in the Chair.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Sir, I was saying that I was dissatisfied with the Government's failure to begin to enquire whether and in what manner this insurance industry can come to be socialised, so that it will be possible for the Government to find a part of the large funds which the Government of India are anxious to gather at the end of the war in order to finance their proposed and prospective Post-war Reconstruction Schemes I wish to say, Sir, that this proposal of mine is quite a feasible and business proposition There is already a precedent in this country The Mysore Government, I learn from my Honourable friend Mr Sami Vencatachalam Chettiar, is already managing this industry on a nationalised basis and it is able to give satisfaction to both the policy holders as well as the general public of that State There is another precedent There is the Postal insurance business and I am told now that war risks insurance also is undertaken by some relevant section of this Department So far as postal insurance is concerned, I am assured on very good authority that its operational expenses or management expenses are the lowest, being not more than ten per cent, whereas the lowest expense ratio of the most efficient company in this country is not lower than 20 per cent. Therefore we have these precedents in this country In addition to this there is an Oxford Economist, Mr Cole, who says in regard to this question of insurance and the necessity for nationalising it:

"It is best to nationalise insurance, both because it is an important source of funds for capital investment and because the State can give the insured, especially if his means are small, a much better return for his money than is possible with the wasteful duplication of administrative machinery under private enterprise"

The only point that had been brought out by various economists of the last century in England was that private enterprise would be more efficient than state enterprise Here is an economist who, however, maintains today in 1944, that private industry is wasteful, is more costly and State enterprise can certainly be less expensive and more economical.

Dr. P. N. Bannerjee (Calcutta Suburbs Non-Muhammadan Urban): Provided we have a State of our own.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: It is quite true that only a Swaraj Government can give the best possible satisfaction. But even as this Government is constituted today, it is busy preparing its schemes in anticipation of the advent of such a Swaraj Government and I wish to protest at the failure of this Government

even to begin its investigations in this direction and see how far it can try to nationalise this industry, so that it will be possible for them to finance better its own reconstruction schemes.

Even in this country the general public opinion has been for sometime in favour of the nationalisation of this industry. Therefore this Government cannot plead ignorance either of that fact or of any sort of a desire on the part of the public that Government should go into this matter with as serious a mind and zeal as is necessary. Sir, as long ago as 1930 the Central Banking Enquiry Committee submitted its report. There was a minority report appended to it and it was signed by my Honourable friend, no less a businessman than Mr Manu Subedar, who is here on my left and this businessman found it possible even so long ago to advocate the necessity as well as the advisability of nationalising this industry. Therefore I am strengthened in saying that it is a feasible, it is a businesslike, and it is a useful proposition and I do not know why the Government does not wish to undertake it. Here is a friend of mine, Mr Samu Vencatachalam Chettiar, who has very considerable experience in insurance business, being the Managing Director as well as the President also of a number of insurance companies, and he assures me that it will be the very first business to be managed and managed satisfactorily and also profitably, if only the State would take it up. In this country we have a number of agricultural provinces. They are all in need of reconstruction, in need of industrial development and therefore they want funds. Today from all these areas various insurance companies are collecting funds and taking them over to Bombay or Lahore or Calcutta. All these companies are concentrated in these few prominent cities. What is to happen to the needs of those other agricultural provinces in the way of industrial development? Their Provincial Governments are not enabled, or encouraged or assisted by the Central Government to develop their own social insurance, their own socialised national insurance. This is a question which the Government of India will have to address themselves to.

I wish to record my emphatic protest against a statement made only recently by the Member in charge of Post-war Planning and Development. He said, Sir, that the Government are convinced that in post-war times the greatest encouragement should be given to private enterprise and as far as it would be possible, the basic industries should be carried on by private enterprise and not by the State. If really that represents the attitude and the policy of this Government I wish to protest against it. It is not fair that this Government should try to tie the prospects of the future Government hand and foot by its schemes based on this assumption that private enterprise alone should be encouraged, in regard to the development of the basic industries of this country and not that the State should take up these questions.

I wish to state in this House that the National Planning Committee took it for granted as axiomatic that of those industries which should be necessarily nationalised and socialised, insurance must be the very first one. I am sure there is no difference of opinion as between different political parties in regard to the necessity for nationalising this industry. Therefore I wish to suggest to the Honourable Member in charge of this Bill that he should make a definite statement of the policy of the Government in regard to this particular industry, as to whether or not they are going to consider seriously and investigate the possibilities for the nationalisation of this industry in post-war time. If the Honourable Member is not prepared to give any sort of assurance, if, on the other hand, he only comes to this House to strengthen his hands to control the vagaries of these various private enterprises, which are plying their trade in this particular industry, then I can only tell him that he is doing a wrong thing and he is not doing any justice either to himself or to this House or to the country.

Sir I oppose this measure.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar (Salem and Coimbatore cwn. North Arcot: Non-Muhammadian Rural): Sir, it is the considered view of many of us

[Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar] that insurance is eminently fitted to be managed by the Government of the country. It is not only from the point of view of profit, which my Honourable friend, Professor Ranga, emphasised, but also from the point of view of benefit. It will be a happy day if we can have universal and compulsory insurance, which will be of benefit to the poorest and the lowest in the land. But, as has been agreed, it requires something more than the present Government to achieve.

This Bill seeks to amend the Insurance Act which was passed a few years ago. In the matter of insurance, what we should consider is a matter of long range policy. It is not like the joint stock companies which seek to achieve their ends today and pay profit. The insurance investor gets his profits, if I may say so, after a long long time, after 20 or 25 years possibly he does not get it—his children get it . . .

Mr. Hoosseinbhooy A. Lalljee (Bombay Central Division Muhammadan Rural): Life insurance is intended for children.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: In these circumstances the duty of the State is great to see that these companies are run properly, that they invest their monies properly, and that their monies are available after a long long time, over which the present insurer has no hold. So I think it is necessary that all provisions which should be made to supervise and look into and look after the proceedings and investment and other aspects of insurance companies are right and necessary. In this matter I would refer to page 6 of the Indian Insurance Year book of 1943. In that they have said

"The main pitfall of the insurance business is inadequacy of premiums, heavy expenses and heavy early lapses."

I know of insurance companies which in their anxiety to catch a lot of business in the first year give a premium of about 50 per cent.

Mr. Hoosseinbhooy A. Lalljee: They used to give 90 per cent!

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Quite possible. I hear that some companies even give 90 per cent. This is done with a view to catch business with the result that when later premiums fail it becomes a dead weight on the insurance companies. So I do really think that this way of catching business at uneconomic rates of competition should be put an end to in the interests of the policy holder.

Secondly, the matter of heavy expenses comes in when large monies are paid to managers and managing agents; and it is essential to control this for the reason, that today the monies are coming in because people have lots of money in their hands, but the payment which they have to pay back comes much later and so it seems today to the insurance companies that they are carrying on very well, whereas it may not be really so if looked at from the proper long range point of view; and so it is necessary for the Government of any country to make regulations to the effect that insurance companies are conducted on real long range vision.

As regards lapses, the danger is especially present today. We have an inflated currency today, the people have lots of money in their hands, but this amount of money may not come to them in the coming years when inflation slowly subsides and when depression starts, with the result that many people who have gone in for inflated insurance policies today may not be able to pay the premiums in later life, and so I do think that it is necessary in the interests of the companies themselves and it is very necessary in the interests of the insurers or policyholders that restrictions should be put which will prevent these companies going aground.

Now, I would just like to say a few words about the clauses. It is true that in some cases even after the courts have upheld the claims of the insurers, the monies have not been paid. It is unfortunate that such cases exist. In my opinion these are trusts and the trustees, if they are to be real trustees, should not even wait for the claims to go to court, but as soon as they are satisfied that the claims are correct and legal they must be paid immediately.

without any delay. So, I welcome the provision in clause 3 of the Bill which makes it incumbent upon the Superintendent of Insurance to go into these matters when such reports arrive and if necessary cancel the registration.

There are one or two other things which we welcome, e.g., clause 7 which makes it necessary that life insurance funds should be invested and kept apart from other assets of the insurer and providing that a person carrying on life insurance business shall not be entitled to embark on other classes of insurance business, unless the Superintendent of Insurance is satisfied that the life insurance fund is adequate for the purpose. I think this provision is necessary. There are other provisions with which we may agree.

But there are certain provisions in this Bill over which I would like to have the opinions of the people concerned. I have had a talk with the Honourable Member in charge of the Bill and also with my friend, the Honourable Mr. Vaidyanathan, to whose experience in the insurance line I would like to pay a tribute. My Honourable friend the Commerce Member said, when I asked whether he had received any opinions and whether he could give us those opinions, he had one simple line in answer—"What are opinions for? Our Insurance Advisory Board has unanimously accepted it." That is rather funny. In a matter like this which concerns provident societies, which concerns commission agents, which concerns many vested interests and which concerns the policyholders' interests also, I would have thought that the Government would have circulated this for public opinion to the various companies concerned and the various interests and people concerned. I have omitted to refer to one very important interest in this insurance business—and that is the interest of the insurance agents themselves. None of these people have been consulted to our knowledge. Not only have they not been consulted, but, as I understand, no pains have been taken to consult them. And may I tell you that unless we have the opinions of the various points of view, it is difficult for laymen to go into the matter and judge it, and so I would like, even within the brief space of time that may be available between now and the coming Session, that this Bill should be circulated to the people concerned, to the various interests concerned, and their opinions received, and not only received, but that the opinions may be circulated to the Members of this House before the Bill comes up again for discussion.

After making this preliminary remark about getting opinion, I would refer only to a few other points. Clauses 4 and 25 refer to the matter of undesirable competition between insurers and provident societies. Clauses 16, 32, 23, 24, 34 and 41 are some of the clauses on which I would like to have public opinion.

So, while generally we support the principle of the Bill, that is, that measures are necessary to see that insurance companies are conducted well and on the right basis and from the point of view of ensuring to the policyholder the payment many years later of what he pays today and while supporting the principle of the Bill, we would request that he should get opinions about many of these provisions that he seeks to put in now.

There is one other matter which I should like to mention before sitting down and that is the amendment to section 29 which the Honourable Member referred to in his speech. In his speech he said that there was a company or there were two companies in which there was a common director. There is a provision in section 29 that you cannot lend money to any director of the company or to any company which has a common director. The gentleman resigned his job just for a day or two, got the money loaned to the other company and then after the transaction was finished he came back and took up his old job. The incident was very enlightening. That only shows how people would like to circumvent the law, wherever it suits their purpose. It is therefore very necessary that provisions should be inserted which will prevent such a thing. We generally support the principle of the Bill.

Mr. Hoosenbhoy A. Lalljee: Sir, I rise to support the motion moved by my Honourable friend the Commerce Member and I should like to congratulate him most heartily for taking this matter up at the earliest possible opportunity. Owing to the war, we really neglected a good deal of our other activities which ought to have been taken into consideration even during the war.

With regard to this Act, it is well known that an amendment was brought in 1938. A large number of vagaries existed then. Great injustice was done to the assurers and the malpractices that were existing were brought to light and if Government were vigilant they would immediately have followed up with other amendments in accordance with the facts which were brought to their knowledge. The facts which the Honourable the Commerce Member has placed before us have been existing even after 1938 and the amendment of 1941. My friend Mr. Chettiar just now placed before us some of the defects and the remedies which are badly needed and I wonder why after all that he has said he still desires that these defects should be allowed to continue to exist even for a day. That legitimate claims in these days should be paid promptly is a question over which I am sure Mr. Chettiar will agree with me and I say, Sir, that the provision that has been made in this respect is necessary and should be put into force immediately.

Then my friend the Honourable the Commerce Member has rightly pointed out the conditions that are prevalent with regard to safety of investments. Here again everybody would agree with the common sense point of view put forward by Mr. Chettiar—namely, that investments belonging to the Life department should be kept separate. The life insurance companies are the trustees and as such it is their bounden duty to see, and we ought to make it compulsory, that funds regarding life insurance must be kept separate from all other funds. In the interests of the assurers, this ought to have been done and I say that it should be done immediately. I do not see why any delay should occur there. Nowadays a number of companies are coming forward and are being floated every day and those who know what happened after the last war should certainly take a lesson and say that before the war ends we must take immediate action to see that those funds which have been gathered from the people for life insurance must be protected.

My friend has also pointed out something with regard to the appointment of the Directors. I think that is a most essential thing to be done. We have seen this sort of thing going on in one of the most influential companies. I was informed that a Director, a very high personage known in society, was the Chairman and the most wonderful thing was that during the time he was on the Board, practically guiding the destinies of the Board his firm was appointed the chief agents and when that was brought to notice what do we find? The gentleman resigns and is re-elected. Very little time passed between the two events. Let us not allow such loopholes. Let it be freely and frankly admitted that, human nature being what it is, the people must be protected.

This is not the only instance. In many other companies these things have been happening. Very recently owing to the action and the vigilance of the Commerce Department and the Industries Department, some mills and some other concerns have come to trouble. My friends have not disclosed the names of the directors of those companies. They have only contented themselves by keeping a control over those concerns but if the names of those directors were disclosed and the connection they have with those companies for a number of years, it would be a great thing to learn whether other companies which have not been caught red-handed would not also have been implicated in those cases. It is a fair assumption to be taken. Somehow or other these things are going on and at least for the life policies I do think that the life companies must be immediately protected. Not a day should pass.

Then, Sir, there is another important thing. I do not know why the Honourable the Commerce Member has not brought in one more clause with regard to the appointment of Chief Agents. At present 40 per cent. of the first premium is allowed directly in the first instance and thereafter 5 per cent. for renewal. There is a Chief Agent and what does he get? And who is this gentleman? Since we first abolished the Managing Agents and brought in the Managing Directors, the commission went on. The son succeeds and the son is naturally as good as the father and furthermore, the Managing Director even today under this Act can appoint his son as the Chief Agent and get 20 per cent more. That is the way. That is why I say that we ought to make a provision also for the fact that as to what this agent is going to do and who will be that person. It should be provided,

3 P.M. as in the Companies Act, that the person appointed as the Chief Agent by the Managing Director or the Board of Directors shall not be directly or indirectly interested with the Managing Director or any of the Directors of the Board. That must be clearly set out. You do not want the Managing Agent to get the commission but you want his son to get the commission as the Chief Agent. That is the position.

I think everybody knows here that practically all over Europe the life insurance business is run by the Government. In France, Italy and even in Germany the life insurance companies were the business of the Government. In fact, the life insurance companies were working as the agents of the Government. Life insurance business is of such an importance that those Governments have been making it a National Department of the Government. Why should not do the same here? Why should we copy the example of Great Britain? Great Britain is a mighty power, but its population is small and they can manage their affairs very well because there is a strong public opinion there. If this system has existed in Great Britain, it is not right that it should also exist in India. In fact, it ought not to exist in India at all. One really wonders why the life insurance business has not been made a State Department by the Government of India, which is the case all over the world except Great Britain. It is the responsibility of the Government to see that the poor people do insure, the children are insured and that the Government will have to look after them. We started the War Risk Department of the Government, and they can manage it. The insurance companies are mere agents. A day may come when this 40 crores ought not to be spent in any other way except for the use of the Life Insurance Fund and make all the life insurance companies the agents of the Government. As regards the business of trusteeship, nobody can claim my trusteeship, although my son may say that he is my trustee. My trustee is he who keeps my funds for my children and gives them my money when I am no more. That is the duty of the Government and of every National Government. I do hope that during the time of my Honourable friend the Commerce Member he will try to bring in a Bill to that effect and the country will welcome it, the masses will welcome it and most of my friends of the Congress Party and of the Muslim League will certainly support it. I wish to make it clear that most of them will support it, not all. But I am sure the country will welcome it. With these words I support the motion and hope and trust that it will be put into operation immediately.

Mr. Manu Subedar (Indian Merchants' Chamber and Bureau Indian Commerce). Sir, I am glad Government have brought this measure though I must say there has been considerable delay in putting through some of the improvements which were necessary and but for the war Government had no excuse to make that delay. I am, however, glad to see my friend Mr. Vaidyanathan in this House. He is a man whom we trust and love in Bombay and whose absence we miss. I feel quite sure that with his close knowledge of the working of the companies in Bombay and with his grasp of the issues as between the insurers on the one side and the insured and the various types of life insurance companies and Provident Fund companies on

[Mr. Manu Subedar.]

the other, all the necessary improvements will be made in this measure in the Select Committee

Sir, I want to refer to one or two small points. In clause 16 there is a definite provision that the Manager shall not be paid except on the basis of a salary and that no commission shall be paid to him. This is a very salutary rule and we all support it. But there is the Branch Manager and there is the Agency Manager and there is the man in a distant part who says he will get you lot of business if you fix him at a salary of Rs. 500. Sir, the company must necessarily tell this new man that we can only give you Rs 50 a month to start with but "if you bring business to use we shall give you more. We shall pay you on the basis of the business which you bring." While it is perfectly correct that there is evil in the managing system with its commission, with its private family sort of establishment, that evil had to be uprooted and that any variant of that evil in the form of a Managing Director who has got sons and brothers-in-law and various other connections with whom he spreads out in various offices in that company must be done away with. It is quite true that Government should use every vigilance, direct or indirect, and if they have not got a sufficient C.I.D., they should engage a few more. I plead on purely business grounds that there are fields in which people bring business, promise to bring business, talk big and ask for a big salary to start with and it would be fatal to any insurance company to promise large salaries to a Branch Manager or to a small agency or to a distant party who is merely a glorified canvasser but is called a Manager by courtesy. In such cases I feel that the interpretation of clause 16 should be made clearer and there should be no objection to the payment of commission, that is to say, payment by results to people who promise business but who have not yet brought any business.

Then, Sir, with regard to clause 4, it is very desirable that competition between Provident Fund Companies and Insurance Companies should be eliminated, but in making this elimination what have the Government done? Clause 4 decreases the minimum limit for life insurance companies to Rs 1,000 and increases the maximum limit for Provident Societies to Rs 750. This is rather strange because the premium of Provident Societies is higher than that of the Insurance Companies. Besides Government have made no provision, as far as I can see, for those who want to get a policy of between Rs 750 to Rs 1,000. It is very desirable that this particular range of policies should be also open to the public either by one or the other of this agency. It is also desirable that Provident Societies should be encouraged to develop special type of insurance business which cannot be taken up by insurance companies and should not be encouraged to do business which rather runs counter to the normal and legitimate activities of the insurers.

Then, Sir, I would like to refer to the other point. This Bill seeks to modify sections 27 and 28 of the original Act, and yet it appears that the Government have taken no account of the numerous representations which they have received with regard to the relaxation of the rule by which 55 per cent of the investments must be made compulsorily in Government and approved securities.

Now, Sir, I want this Government to take this matter logically, not today but at such reasonable time when they are ready for it. Either you take all the money which comes from life insurance business and which, as I said, in the Central Banking Committee's minority report, is capable of running economically and to the advantage of the policy holders. You should take the whole insurance field in your hands and retain all the funds which come and use them for such public purposes as you have got. But if you are going to leave the field to private companies, as you have left it now, then you must consider the business and financial difficulties of those private companies. And in this case my friend Mr. Vaidyanathan will be the very first man to endorse what I am saying. In this case, owing to a progressive fall in the rate of

yield of Government securities, the figures and the well-balanced financial accounts of some of these companies have got into serious difficulties. And they say that they are willing to put it in Government paper but it is not yielding them that rate which they assumed when they started business, the rate which they earned before, and that while the expense ratio remained the same or increased, the yield from the major part of their investments was progressively going down. This is a dilemma which must be considered, having regard to the fact that the Government in England, and following it our own Government here, are promising and threatening that the lower money rate policy will continue. If it is to continue, please consider whether it is possible for insurance companies to lock up their funds in these Government and approved securities to the extent to which they are called upon to do, and whether it does not seriously disturb the financial equilibrium on which they have based their policy so far. On the other hand, as I say, I am entirely in favour of the general suggestion that life insurance business is capable of being managed economically by the State. As a matter of fact in the Government insurance scheme in which Government servants alone are at present admitted,—I do not see why other people also should not be admitted,—the expense ratio is 7 per cent. whereas the expense ratio of the New India Insurance Company, which is the lowest among insurance companies as far as I know, is 23 per cent. Now who loses this 16 per cent? It is definitely lost to the policyholder. It must come out either of less benefit given to him or greater premium charged to him. This is a question, as I said, not in connection so much with this Bill but a matter of permanent policy, and I have no doubt that when Sir Ardeshr Dalal goes into planning and spreads himself out to the extent of so many crores in this direction and so many crores in the other direction and consults the Finance Member, he will find that most of these are mare's nests, that most of these projects he will not have money to carry out. These are high-sounding projects, telling people that they are going to build palaces for them hereafter and my Honourable friend the Transport Member promises to give the third class passenger things which will put to shame the present first class amenities, and so on. All these promises will depend on finance, and I say in the search for more finance, for regularly creating finance in large bulk, life insurance promises the best field. And further, Sir, life insurance has only touched a very small fringe of the population today, it has catered for the rich. Many of the rich people have taken out policies running into lakhs of rupees. But many of the poor people, to whom family life and the desire and anxiety to provide for their children must be as keen and acute, either do not understand it or they have no facilities or in the past they have been cheated by canvassers, by bogus companies and by all sorts of adverse regulations. If they failed to pay one or two premiums their policies used to be confiscated, but now Government have provided that where premiums are paid for a few years, they must be paid something. But are Government aware that the Surrender value of such policies are so low that it is nothing short of expropriation, so far as the poor people are concerned? I say there are a good many evils associated with the insurance enterprise in this country. Recently we see evidence that every bank wants to have an insurance company and every insurance company wants to turn itself into a bank with a common directorate. The same evil that my Honourable friend Mr. Lalljee mentioned, an evil which could not be unknown to Government will arise. I say there is something dangerous in the kind of development which is now taking place and watchfulness was never more required by Government than it will be hereafter. And I trust that not only will the provisions of this Bill, as far as they affect directors, be very much strengthened, but that in practice the Superintendent of Insurance will justify his appointment and satisfy the country that nothing untoward is being done. Because, when the collapse comes it will come simultaneously. But do not let us wait till the collapse comes. Let us be watchful; in the interval let us weed out the bad ones and mete out model punishment to them as a guidance and warning to the others. Sir, I support the motion.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir (Bombay Orty. Non-Muhammadan Urban). Sir, I should like to echo the last sentiments of my Honourable friend who spoke just now. Watchfulness will be more necessary perhaps in the future than even today, and the signs are that many evils may crop up which we are not quite certain of just now. I rise to point out two facts which have been repeated twice in this House but which are not quite correct. If Government desire to nationalise life insurance, by all means let them do so. But to say that private companies cost much more to run than if managed by Government is not quite accurate. My Honourable friends Mr Chettiar and Mr Manu Subedar said that Government do their insurance work at an expense ratio of 7 per cent and the best company to Mr Manu Subedar's knowledge does it at 23 per cent. These are totally different kinds of business and I am surprised that Mr Manu Subedar should have made this mistake. Government insurance is confined to its own servants, it has to do no canvassing, it carries all the risk itself, it has no investments and no capital to raise; and all it has to do is to register the names of those who are to be insured and the amounts. A private insurance company has to raise capital, has to invest it, has to find its clientele, has to maintain it, and above all, it has to see that it is honestly and efficiently run. A percentage of 23 is not so high, another company may be a little lower. Even if it is 23 per cent and Government's cost is 7 per cent, all I can say is that Government's expense ratio may be one or two per cent too high.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: What is the lowest rate that you know?

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: I understand 23 per cent is the lowest. There is just one more point on which I venture to disagree with my Honourable friend. I am very glad that Government have not brought in a clause to amend that section which provides that insurance companies shall invest 55 per cent. in Government paper. This is not the time to make such a change. If, as my Honourable friend Mr. Chettiar said, safety, stability and honesty are to be our aims and must be our aims, then I think if an amendment is to come to that section, it should come in the other direction. Fifty-five per cent in Government paper leaves 45 per cent for the Directors to play about with. I make no insinuation, I make no imputations, but I do think that in some companies 45 per cent is a little too much for the Directors to play about with.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: Fifty-five per cent. plus the compulsory deposits.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: All told it is 55 per cent. The point I was trying to stress was that there is a good deal of temptation now-a-days to get control over companies which have large sums with which the Directors can play about with. That should be discouraged. The more the margin to play about with, the more the temptation for new multi-millionaires to get hold of these companies.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: What about the old multi-millionaires? They are left to themselves.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: Unfortunately, they do not increase. At any rate, Mr. Deputy President, I can only repeat that I am very glad that such an amendment is not before the House. I fully realise the difficulties of insurance companies mentioned by my Honourable friend Mr Manu Subedar. Government paper is at a very high rate and the return is very low indeed. But they do have 45 per cent to earn more and if they can invest this 45 per cent judiciously, I do not think they have reason to grumble, especially when there are companies, at least one to my knowledge where under the Articles of Association, nearly the whole of 100 per cent is to be put into Government Paper and that company must be affected in the long run. Taxation is now restricted, as much as in England very luckily, but it ought to go further and that ought to help. I have nothing further to say, Mr. Deputy President, except to hope that Government will keep a watchful eye over this great, I will call it national, enterprise and will do their best to see that malpractices

do not creep in, and that when they see the very first signs of such malpractices creeping in, they will not hesitate to bring in legislation before this House and will threaten to do so to stop the malpractices that some people may have in view.

Mr. T. Chapman-Mortimer: Mr Deputy President, two motions as I understand it are before the House. The first is the motion of the Honourable the Commerce Member that this Bill be referred to a Select Committee. The second is the motion of my Honourable friend Mr. Krishnamachari, who unfortunately is not at the moment in the House his suggestion is that the Bill be circulated for eliciting public opinion. Now, Sir, we, in this Group, feel that there are very powerful reasons why support should be given to the motion of the Honourable the Commerce Member. At the same time, I personally sympathise very much with the point of view of Mr Krishnamachari. My Honourable friend Mr Krishnamachari feels, as many of us do feel, that Government is increasingly by-passing this Assembly by having consultations with powerful people outside, either in the form of Advisory Committees or otherwise, and then they come along and say, "well now, this House, we hope will pass our Bill. We referred it to expert opinion, and expert opinion agrees with us and we think you should put on the rubber stamp and make this Bill an Act". Now, Sir, from that point of view, I sympathise with the attitude of my Honourable friend Mr Krishnamachari. At the same time, as I have said, we, in this Group, are not going to support his motion. We believe that the Honourable the Commerce Member and the Superintendent of Insurance,—whom we all welcome here in this House today,—have taken a very great deal of trouble about this Bill. They have sought to improve insurance legislation so as to make it as water-tight as possible. As the two last speakers have said, there is no type of legislation in this country where it is more necessary that Government should adopt an attitude [in my Honourable friend Sir Cowasjee Jehangir's phrase] of watchfulness,—where they should adopt an attitude of very stringent enforcement of the law—than in insurance legislation. I do not propose to weary the House by going into details with regard to most of the 43 clauses in this Bill. I propose to confine myself to three main clauses, namely, clauses 16, 19 and 20. Now, Sir, if Honourable Members will refer to the Bill, they will find that clause 19 seeks to amend section 40 of the Act. As it is a little difficult to follow all this, I may remind the House that section 40 provides for prohibition of payment by way of commission, or otherwise for procurement of business, that is to say, it lays down certain restrictions and conditions upon procurement of insurance business. Now, Sir, with regard to that clause, there are three changes which the Government have in mind. The first change is the proposal in sub-clause (a), to insert after sub-section (1) a new sub-section. That sub-section proposes that so far as the Insurance agent, holding a valid licence from an Indian State is concerned, he should be treated for the purpose of this section and also sections 41 and 43 the same as an agent licensed under the Act to operate in British India. I have not examined closely the precise constitutional significance underlying Government's proposal. This is not the place to raise that. At the same time, I should like to draw the attention of the House to the wording of that proposed new sub-section, *vis*, the use there of the word 'person'. (We know that an Insurance Agent as defined in the Act is not any person but an individual) and then the Bill says that a "person" holding a valid licence is an Insurance agent under the law of the State should be treated in a certain manner. Well, it may be that that is all right, but until we know what the precise legislation in a State is, it is very difficult for us to express any opinion, more especially as this point has to be studied very carefully, in connection with clauses 16 and 20. In that same clause 19 the Bill provides for reduction from 15 per cent. to 10 per cent in the commission to be paid to insurance agents. That is a matter that we shall have to examine very carefully in the Select Committee. But I should just like to mention this point to the House when we consider this general proposition

[Mr. T. Chappin-Mortimer.]

before the House. The point I would suggest for Honourable Members' consideration is this, that there are various kinds of insurance agents, some do all their own work in the way of preparation of policies and so on and so forth, others, may be little more than canvassers. It is obvious that if you are going to reward all these people in the same manner, what may be worth while for a canvasser would not be worth while for some one who is engaging highly qualified staff and who is doing a very large amount of work and probably in some cases in effect providing a guarantee to the insurer, that what is accepted in the way of any particular policy is a policy for which he is standing in the shoes of a guarantor, as it were. In other words, the insurance agent in such a case, is in his own person a guarantee that any business which he gives is good. Well, Sir, I mention that fact because it is very important.

The other point which is important is this. For many years in this country 15 per cent has been the generally accepted rate that is payable to an insurance agent. The Government have given no clear reason that I can follow for this change. In some cases, Government propose to differentiate between so-called "young" companies and the old companies. I consider this is a most obnoxious principle. It is perfectly true that Government can turn round and say that the precedent is already in the Act. It is in the Act. After a long hard fight, Sir N. N. Sircar had to give way on this point and he made a provision in sub-section (ii) of section 40 to that effect, viz., provided that in the case of life insurers during the first ten years of their business they will be able to pay higher commissions to their agents than older companies will be able to do. This is a most obnoxious principle and I am very surprised indeed that the Government of India have actually embodied it on their own initiative in the Bill. May I explain one of the things that will inevitably follow from it. Let us take an old established insurance company.—I am not talking, of course, of companies like New India because they are strong and so well established that they in the long run will have nothing to fear, or at least perhaps less to fear than others,—but take a smaller and less powerful company. In such a case it has its agents scattered all over the country. These agents are now going to be restricted to 10 per cent. commission. But a few multi-millionaires who make colossal fortunes out of black marketeering, profiteering and other methods of making money in war time, come along and start insurance companies. In this connection, if I may digress for a moment, I was extremely interested in the remarks of my Honourable friend, Mr. Mann Subedar. He made, if I may say so, one of the best speeches on a technical subject that I have ever listened to in this House, and he drew attention to the activities of those who are forming insurance companies in close connection with banks and those who are forming banks in close connection with insurance companies. This is a subject I know a little about, because I have been studying some of the ramifications of some of these new companies very closely indeed, and, therefore, knowing what I do, and what I am sure Mr. Mann Subedar also knows, I am astonished that the Government of India should have made in the Bill which they have placed before this House a provision to give yet another advantage to some of these people. Frankly I am very surprised indeed that they should have done this and I hope when the time comes they will agree to the deletion of that proviso.

Clauses 16 and 20 must really be taken together, because though the one provides for the restriction of commission of managers and the other deals with chief agents, they cannot be considered apart. The House will remember that in 1937 we agreed unanimously—all parties agreed—that in the case of insurance business the managing agent should be eliminated. Quite properly. We all know the kind of abuses that managing agents of insurance companies and banks indulge in and the unanimous feeling of this House was that these people should go. Now, Sir, if you study carefully these provisions of clauses 16 and 20 linked up with 19 and other aspects of insurance law, which I need not refer to here, it is very clear to me at least that what, in fact, Government is doing—unwittingly no doubt—is to restore the position for managing

agents. The Honourable the Commerce Member mentioned a case—I hope he will tell us much more about it at a later stage—where someone had appointed himself, or got himself appointed, as a managing director for a long term of years. Now, Sir, I do not know when that happened, but if it happened after 1937, all I can say is that something ought to be done about the Commerce Department, because they are their Superintendents of Insurance, especially Mr. Thomas and my Honourable friend, Mr. Vaidyanathan, know very well that the intention of the House was that managing agents should go and if you look in the Companies Act you will find that a managing agent not merely means . . .

The Honourable Sir M. Anisul Huque: May I interrupt my Honourable friend for a moment? I do not remember whether I mentioned it then, but actually this happened in an Indian State. If that Bank had been working in British India, it would, I am sure, have encountered many difficulties.

Mr. T. Chapman-Mortimer: Thank you, Sir. I am grateful for this information. But in regard to this question of managing agents, the managing agent is not a person called by that name. The managing agent, according to the definition which Sir N. N. Sircar drafted very largely himself, is a person by whatever name called if such person is *in fact* a managing agent. If I get my co-directors to nominate me as a managing director on terms which in fact mean that I am a managing agent, all I can say is, the sooner the Commerce Member and his able Assistants get on to me the better! I am not saying this in criticism either of my Honourable friend Mr. Vaidyanathan or his predecessor because I think that they both have done an enormous amount to clean up the insurance business in India, but I mention it as a point for us all to bear in mind. If Government are going to argue that because of this case, you must have this new provision in clause 16 or a new provision in clause 20, I say that if they are going to take that line then we in turn are entitled to say "what have you been doing?" Don't say you have got no powers because we know that under the Insurance Act you have got ample powers to deal with such cases, and furthermore if someone is a managing director but in fact, is a managing agent and that is contrary to insurance law, you are entitled to proceed against him in the Court.

Clause 16 proposes that no manager or other adviser or person acting in an advisory capacity shall be remunerated by way of commission. Now, in regard to this question of commission, I should, first of all, like to say that in common with the Honourable the Commerce Member and the Honourable the Superintendent of Insurance, I entirely agree with them that not merely in insurance business but all over this country there has been widespread abuse of "commission." We all know how many people have been altering their Articles of Association so that commission shall be payable to the managing agents—before E. P. I. for example, and many other cases can be given. Government therefore feel that something must be done about this and so they propose to limit commission. But what then do they do? They merely say that if a man is a manager he may not be rewarded by way of commission. But supposing I am the insurer and I have a manager who formerly has been very valuable to me and has brought me much of business, I say 'I am sorry I cannot reward you by commission any more, so I think you had better join the Board of Directors and I am sure my colleagues will reward you.' If they agree with my suggestion and if you become a director you will then be rewarded by way of commission or share in profits. Now, Sir, it does seem to me fantastic to suggest that when the very people who control a company,—the people who decide its policy, the people who are primarily responsible not merely to the shareholders but to the policyholders,—that these people should be allowed to remunerate themselves in any way they like and nobody else should be allowed to be remunerated on the same basis. Not that I suggest for one moment that they should not be rewarded by way of commission on profits,—Commission on profits may or may not be an excellent way of rewarding your staff,

[Mr. T. Chapman-Mortimer:] or your directors—I merely suggest that for the Government to come along and say to this House 'you cannot reward a manager on the basis of commission on profits while you can do so in the case of a director' is something which I find myself unable to understand—more especially as in my experience Directors very naturally do not pay more to their staff, or to their agents or to their chief agents or to anybody else than they have to pay as a rule. There are of course exceptional Directors? Some of us get more pay than we deserve, but the fact remains that generally speaking Directors are pretty careful about how much they do pay!

Mr. Huseinbhoy A. Laljee: Very, very careful!

Mr. T. Chapman-Mortimer: They are not so careful as to how they take remuneration from other companies! I do not want to say any more about that clause, but it will be obvious to the House from what I have already said that I am opposed to it and we in this Group unanimously feel it will, if put into force, in fact, not be enforceable because it will be got round and evaded by all the dishonest people while the honest people will be bound down by it.

Mr. Sri Prakasa (Allahabad and Jhansi Divisions, Non-Muhammadan Rural). That always happens!

Mr. T. Chapman-Mortimer: But in this case it is liable to much more abuse than usual. My Honourable friend knows very well why, because he is a banker and he has much experience in this matter. He knows, and I know, and most of this House knows that the reason why there has been so much abuse of commission in the last two or three years has been due to financial reasons and not to other reasons such as have been alleged. In other words, primarily the abuses that we have seen in the last two or three years have arisen from the inflationary tendencies which have been so widespread ever since the early part of 1942. In the case of Chief Agents, of course, if Government are going to restrict commissions they must define what an agent is and they have sought to do so in clause 20.

With regard to clause 20, I do not propose to go into any detail, but I would comment again that a feature appears there which appears also in clause 19, namely, the distinction which is sought to be drawn between an agent of a new company and an agent of an old company. It is clear to anyone who has any knowledge of insurance business that the effect of the latter half of sub-section (8) of the proposed new section 40A will be that many old established insurers will lose business to some of the new insurance companies that have come into existence as a result of inflation in the last three or four years. So, Sir, we strongly object to that provision also.

I do not think there is anything more that I have to add at this stage except to repeat what I stated in the beginning, namely, that we in this Group support Government in their desire that this Bill should be referred to a Select Committee.

Mr. L. S. Vaidyanathan (Government of India: Nominated Official) The Honourable the Commerce Member will deal with the points raised by the speakers and I am only now answering one or two points raised by my Honourable friend, Mr. Chapman-Mortimer, which bear on the technical side of the issue. Firstly, he referred to section 19 and he said he was not in a position to understand fully the implication of the new clause 1A. I may say in this connection that if there is a British Indian insurer and I will take the case of New India, as it has been already mentioned on the floor of this House, the British Indian insurer transacting business in an Indian State, according to the law as it stands at present, cannot pay commission to an agent of New India confining his activities exclusively to the Indian State unless he takes out double license. The position now is to enable New India to pay commission to that agent he has to take out a license from British India and since he is working as an agent in the Indian State he has to take a license from the State as well. There are laws of other States also which have been

loosely drawn up to the effect that no insurer can pay commission to any agent in India unless that State license also is taken. Let me call that State "A". Then all the agents of New India will have to take licenses not only from Mysore, Baroda etc. but also from British India and that state A. To avoid these anomalies it is now sought to provide that if any agent holds a valid license of an Indian State then he will be also a licensed agent in British India so that the British Indian company can without a double or triple license pay him commission. That is only what is sought to be brought in the terms of that clause.

My Honorable friend Mr. Chapman-Morfinet also objected to the favourable treatment that has been sought to be given to young companies in the proviso to clause 19 and also to some provisos in clause 20. He himself, to the best of my knowledge, played a very important part when the Insurance Bill was passed and became the present Act in the year 1917-18, and at that time the Legislature did make some discriminatory provisions in favour of the young insurers defining them as insurers within 10 years of incorporation, and if we did not repeat that principle then the Government would be criticised on the score that they have not been quite consistent and it has been felt that these are very desirable provisions unless my Honorable friend Mr. Chapman-Morfinet, is going to make out a case that these provisos are going to militate substantially against the sound working of insurance in general and of these young companies in particular.

He again drew reference to clause 16 in the terms of which it is proposed to limit the remuneration of Managers. Sir, I have been in this position as Superintendent of Insurance for about a year and in this short period the number of applications that have flooded me with respect to starting of new companies has been enormous and more than that very undesirable features have been noticed in that the method of remuneration to be paid to those persons who are at the helm of affairs which are not put in the shape of open prices, bonuses and pries but in the shape of modest and pity evoking small figures as 5 per cent on first premium and 3 to 4 per cent on renewal premiums. This is a very undesirable feature which should find no place in the Articles of Association of any Insurance Company. Here is Mr. X the Manager of an Insurance Company and there is a proposal before him to consider whether to accept or reject. Naturally he has to consider the proposal on its own merits as to whether it deserves to be accepted or not. On the other hand human nature being what it is, there may be a sub-conscious suggestion that if he rejects this proposal, 5 per cent on first premium will not go into his pocket and another 3 or 4 per cent for another 20 years. It is desired to put down all these undesirable features. Commission of 5 per cent on the first year's and 2 or 3 per cent on the renewal premium which one might say in terms of pity as small, will actually amount to lakhs when companies expand and grow to be very rich and big and we are all visualising the day when Indian insurance companies will grow into big concerns and we have to provide having that day in view.

There was one point made about insurance having been nationalised in Mysore. In Mysore there is a state scheme, as we have the postal scheme which is thrown open to government servants. They have to pay a premium up to ten per cent on their salaries compulsorily. And there is also a public scheme which is thrown open to the members of the public but there is a great difference between having a public scheme run by Government for the service of the general population and nationalising this insurance industry as a whole.

I have got nothing further to say and I am sure the Honourable the Commerce Member will reply to the other points raised in the discussion.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: Sir, I am grateful to the different sections of the House for the favourable response which has been given by the different Parties with reference to the Insurance Amending Bill. In spite of a lurking criticism or suggestion here and there and in spite of my friend Mr. Krishnamachari's motion for circulation, there is no doubt that the consensus of opinion, so far as this House is concerned—and I take it that that

[Sir M. Azizul Huque.]

is a reflex of the opinion in the country—is that the time has come when, merely on the score of ourselves being in the midst of a war, we cannot and should not sit tight, but must do something to rectify some of the abuses which have already crept into some of the insurance companies and are likely to creep in more in future months or years in the insurance structure of this country. I am really grateful to the Honourable Members of the House for that.

Sir, several questions have been asked as regards the previous consultations and my friend, Mr. Chapman-Mortimer, almost generalised it as the characteristic of Government movements today in the way of bringing legislation by consulting a few persons. I would only remind my friend Mr. Chapman-Mortimer that we are in the midst of a war and in the midst of a war it is not always possible to have the dilatory method of a long-drawn out procedure, particularly in a country like India which, as my friend Mr. Chapman-Mortimer knows, is a vast country with four hundred million people, where quick consultations between one part and another is extremely difficult and specially at the present moment. At the same time, the fact that we have on occasions erred on that side does not indicate that we do not mean to take into consideration all points which are brought to our notice. In this particular case (and here I might say that I do sometimes feel that experts are dangerous, horse power which may have to be kept under a certain amount of non-technical control) we did consult a properly constituted body, where there were representatives of all the insurance interests, including the provident societies about which my friend Mr. Joshi asked me, and I must say that on some of the points there was quite lively discussion on the principles which have been embodied in this Bill. We did consult the chief agents. Not only that I promised in that committee that as soon as the Bill is drafted it will be sent to every member of the Insurance Advisory Committee consisting of Indians and Europeans, representatives of business houses, insurance companies, provident societies and other interests. We have done that. It is not my intention, as I said before, to rush through. What I propose is also neither to dilate nor to rush through nor to make any unnecessary delay. Subject to the assent of the Honourable the Law Member, who is always the Chairman of these Select Committees, I do not propose to call this committee earlier than about the beginning of January. In the meantime I want to circulate this Bill once again to the members of the Insurance Advisory Committee. I want to call a formal meeting of the committee, have their views recorded properly and have them circulated to members of the Select Committee.

Mr. E. L. C. Gwilt (Bombay European): Will the Honourable Member see to it that a copy of this Debate is sent to every member of the Committee?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: It will be very difficult for me to arrange that.

Mr. T. Chapman-Mortimer: I do not want to interrupt the Honourable Member but I should like to be quite clear on one point. Supposing this is sent to the Committee and they say "Oh, yes, we want this and this and something else." These are the views of the Advisory Committee and with these if he comes back to this House, does it mean that we are bound to accept them?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: My friend knows the constitutional position. When the House is in seisin of a piece of legislation and it goes to a Select Committee, that Select Committee has the fullest right to go into the questions relevant and within the scope of the Bill and this House has a full right to take up that matter which is reported by the Select Committee. My friend Mr. Chapman-Mortimer, as I said, has raised some of the points affecting the issues of the Bill itself. Similarly, it may be that other interests have got their own points of view and I want that the Select Committee should be fully cognizant of the different points of view on the different sections which are incorporated to the Bill itself.

Babu Baijnath Bajoria (Marwari Association Indian Commerce): Why not have witnesses before the Committee?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Haque: I will leave witnesses to the criminal and civil courts. My friend will understand that.

I say that perhaps, in view of the present circumstances regarding paper particularly, it will not be possible for me to circulate this Bill except to some of the important industrial and trade organisations of this country and I do hope that that will at least give the general public, which is interested, an opportunity to consider the merits of the Bill. There are the Associated Chambers of Commerce, the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry and the Federation of Muslim Chambers of Commerce and other organisations of all-India importance. I propose to send this Bill, to ascertain their views to such associations which are of an all-India importance and I want to place their views also before the Select Committee. But having done that my duty is to leave it to the members of the Select Committee and their good judgment. I want the Committee to be appraised of all the opinions on this Bill. After that, it is my intention that subject to the Select Committee coming to a decision on this matter, to take up legislation in the next Session. If there are any other points of importance which arise I shall certainly take them into consideration.

My attention today on the floor of the House and for the last few days has also been drawn to various other objectional and deplorable features in the insurance business of this country. I am fully in agreement with all those who feel the time has come when not only we should be watchful but that we should be particularly watchful that the India of the future is not handed over to a few monopolists in one way or the other. It is a great country and has a greater future before it and it will be an evil day for India when she will be dominated by a few either in the field of politics or economics. I yield to none in my desire that we should take every possible step to see that a few monopolists do not control the economic future of India. If there

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is anything in the insurance line by which we can help that objective, I can assure you that we shall not be behind in bringing in relevant legislation in this House and as soon as possible. I am told that there are other malpractices, I am told that there are people who are trying to capture some of these organisations to play with the money which they may have in these concerns. It will be my duty to keep a watch over that thing, and at any stage if I find the situation is coming to such a pass in which it is becoming a feature at least with some of these concerns, we will do our best to bring in the relevant legislation, or at least bring it to the notice of the House through the relevant legislation.

My Honourable friend, Mr. Vaidyanathan, has replied to some of the points which have been raised by Mr. Chapinam-Mortimer and others. I do not think I need say anything more. I am quite cognisant of the fact that there will be difference of opinion as to whether industry as a whole or insurance business in particular should be a private enterprise or a state concern. (An Honourable Member "State certainly") I would certainly welcome that day. But I am personally a bit nervous to take that step immediately today. (An Honourable Member "Why?") Because I find how similar state enterprises are being discussed through questions and resolutions in such ways as when the station master of a particular station refusing a wagon to a particular person becomes a matter brought up before this Assembly through interpellations—I at least would wait for a little better atmosphere before I think of changing the present system. (An Honourable Member "You must not be afraid of criticism") I want criticism, I want discussion; but I want my friend also to realise that we are not living one thousand years in the past or one thousand years in the future, but living in today and the atmosphere of today. If leaving the financial and other structures intact in this country, I am asked to break down the entire insurance structure of some of the biggest companies in India which have

[**Sir M. Azizul Huque**]

devoted years to making this business a success, and if I am asked by legislation to destroy the whole of that structure, I will hesitate to do it for the time being, at least till a national Government is in power. It is no use my friends entreating me saying that I do not represent the people, and in the same breath coming to me and saying "You must take steps which only a national Government can do." A national Government can only exist when you have got complete confidence in those who are responsible for the decision of questions of policy. I am not saying whether I do represent the people or not. I am not saying whether my Honourable friend is correct or incorrect. All I say is that in the existing state of affairs Prof. Ranga's discussion is not just the proper thing for this House to decide.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Why do you not begin that at any rate?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I am quite prepared, as I say. My objective is quite at one with his. I entirely agree with him and I do hope it will be possible some day—I do not know when that day will come when we can rebuild all the existing structures. I would very much like that the cities of Bombay and Calcutta and Delhi should be rebuilt after wiping away every building. I would desire that every building should be built by the side of the Jinnah, but I cannot destroy the buildings which are existing today. That is my difficulty.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: Does the Honourable Member want to have Port Sultan as the fund? Ask for the assistance of the War Transport Ministry?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I do not want to turn Delhi into a Venice or having a few pleasure boats there. But as I say my difficulty is that I do not know what a national Government will do, they might think of completely demolishing this city and rebuilding it. That might be in consonance with their ideal that ought or ought not be in the best interests of the country. But situated as I am, I cannot possibly destroy a whole city in order to rebuild it. There are abuses, there have been pitfalls, there have been mistakes, there are things which we desire and desire anxiously to rectify. But I ask of Prof. Ranga seriously, when we rebuild does he want the whole city of Calcutta, or Bombay or Madras to be demolished and then rebuilt? I am therefore a bit hesitant in expressing my views on this matter, and I think in this Legislature it is the problems of today and the problems of the next few years which should suffice for myself. If I am able through your help to do something better for today, I would ask Prof. Ranga to dream his dream and think only of tomorrow but I will try to do my best, to do what I can, for today. As regards the question of the future of this insurance, I entirely agree that insurance should cover a much wider field, not only life and fire and accident, but there should be insurance of crops, insurance of cattle, insurance against sickness, old age and many other forms of insurance. I yield to none in my desire that all these things should come. But as the Commercial Member in charge of insurance for the time being, I am merely concerned for the time being to see what I can do in order that these things may become possible in the future—to build on a clean solid foundation whatever little structure we are raising today. When the superstructure and the palatial buildings come, Prof. Ranga may have the credit for himself, I shall be happy if I can find that one little brick has been added and that it stands solidly to support the framework. I oppose the circulation motion.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): Does Mr. Krishnamachari press his circulation motion?

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: I am not withdrawing my motion.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): The question is

"That the Bill be circulated for the purpose of eliciting public opinion thereon by the 31st January, 1945."

The motion was negatived.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta) The question is—That the Bill further to amend the Insurance Act, 1938 (Second Amendment) be referred to a Select Committee consisting of Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai, Mr. Abdul Qayum, Mr. N. C. Chunder, Mr. Satya Narayan Sinha, Mr. Muhammad Nauman, Mr. H. A. Sathar, H. Essak Sait, Mr. Muhammad Yamin Khan, Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta, Mr. T. I. Krishnamachari, Mr. T. Chapman Morimer, Mr. E. L. C. Gwillt, Rai Bahadur Sri Seth Bhagchand Saini, Mr. Vithal N. Mandivakar, Mr. Abdul Halim Ghaznavi, Mr. Hooventhaloy A. Laljee, Mr. L. S. Vaidyanathan and the Member and that the number of members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the Committee shall be five.”

The motion was adopted.

THE INDIAN RICE COMMITTEE BILL—*contd.*

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta) The next is the motion moved by Mr. Lyson on Tuesday the 7th November, 1944, about the Rice Committee Bill. Prof. Ranga

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Guntur, *former* Non-Muhammadan Rural). The other day I was saying just before the House rose that it was wrong on the part of the Government to have come forward with this proposal on the ground that they do not make any provision whatsoever for any contribution from the Central Government or the Provincial Governments towards the finances of the proposed committee in addition to the funds that are to be provided by the growers concerned. As I have said before, I have very strong objection to this innovation. It is the duty of the Government here and in the provinces to finance research and other activities intended to benefit those who are interested in the production of various crops in this country and also in various trades and industries. In fact, it has been the practice of this Government to finance more and more schemes of industrial and technological researches in this country in the interests of commerce and industry and Government did not come forward with any proposal to demand that the people concerned should pay for all these services. Indeed the Reconstruction Committee of the Executive Council itself suggested that a proportion of the Central Government as well as the Provincial Governments should finance such activities as scientific and industrial research, planning and technical enquiries undertaken in conjunction with the representatives of industry, geological and mining surveys, the provision of facilities for training technical staff in both subordinate and higher grades, including where necessary, training overseas, obtaining of technical experts from overseas, allocation of priorities for mechanizing, provision of power and transport facilities, finance, either direct or through some kind of National Development Corporation in which the public can participate, organisation of internal and external markets, *etc.*, through an Indian Export Corporation, tariffs or other means of safeguarding industries, statistics and commercial information.

[At this stage Mr. President (The Honourable Sri Abdur Rahim) resumed the Chair.]

All these things are proposed to be organised in future and they are to be financed by the Central Government and if necessary by the Provincial Governments also. There is no mention here by the Executive Council Special Committee to the effect that the interests concerned should make any kind of contribution. I do not know why the Government are so very anxious that such an important body of producers as the rice growers should now be made to tax themselves in order to finance all necessary scientific research.

Sir, even the Royal Commission on Agriculture did not approve of the idea of forming a special committee like this for rice crop in this country. It has taken special objection to it on the ground that such committees organising latitudinal researches will only be duplicating the work of various Provincial Governments and may be of the Central Government also and it maintained that so far as paddy growing in this country is concerned, so many people are interested in it that it would be the special duty and responsibility of the Central Government as well as the Provincial Governments to finance the required research and not to throw the burden of the research on the shoulders of the persons concerned.

[Prof. N. G. Ranga]

It is true that the Royal Commission on Agriculture also suggested that certain trades interested in any particular crop may be expected to finance any special research that may be organised for it but it had in its view—and in fact the precedents that have been quoted by my Honourable friend Mr Tyson also support this view,—only those who are interested in such crops whose export markets had to be developed and in whose production only a few rich and well organised planters are interested. Even if you take the Lac Committee or the Cotton Committee and other committees dealing with tea and coffee, you will find that there are a few very big planters, who are very well organised and who are able to look after themselves. They can form themselves into very able and effective organisations and they are interested in exporting a very large portion of their produce to other countries. Therefore they are anxious to improve the prospect, for more and more profitable exports to other countries. And so it might have been argued that it was desirable on the part of the Government to have expected them to finance their own marketing organisation. But so far as rice is concerned, even what we produce in this country is not enough. We do not want any outside markets for our rice. We are only anxious to cater to our own consumers in this country. It is only if we produce more and more it will be possible to make India self-sufficient in the matter of rice. Therefore the question of trying to find markets outside India does not arise and I do not know why the Government are so very particular that this committee should be formed at this stage and that it should be financed only at the cost of the producers.

It may be argued that after all this particular cess is so small and that it is expected to be recovered from the rice mill owners and therefore it is not likely to fall on the shoulders of the peasants. This is a wrong impression and wrong assumption also. In actual practice, it has been found in the South as well in the Punjab where the Sales Tax has been imposed that although it had to be paid in the first instance by the tradesmen, it had necessarily either to be deducted from the price that was being paid to the peasants or to be added on to the price the consumers had to pay. So, this particular cess can be shifted on to the shoulders of the peasants and this will certainly happen in post-war times when the imports from Burma, Siam and other countries would be coming in and every ton of these imports would be able to settle the price of the total production of rice in this country and in those days we cannot be quite sure whether the Government of India would be quite willing to come forward and give the necessary protection against these imports. In these circumstances what will happen is that the peasants will have to bear the burden of this particular cess.

Then, Sir, this is only the thin end of the wedge. There is no guarantee that it will stop here. Now, the Government have come forward with this proposal of six annas per ton. Once we pass this Bill and allow this Committee to be established, it will be open and possible for the Government also to come forward and propose an increase in the rate of the excise duty. The burden will grow and will go on increasing and these burdens will be in addition to those which the peasants have to bear in the provinces. I want to register my protest against this method of indirect taxation and increasing the financial burdens that are being levied upon our peasants.

Coming to the proposed functions of this Committee, I find that even in this regard Government has not been sufficiently liberal or far sighted. Even in the Final Act of the United Nations Conference on Food and Agriculture which has been proposed in pursuance of the recommendations of the Hot Springs Conference in America about two years ago, we find that they propose to work to better the condition of the rural populations, organisation and successive stages in the distributing and marketing, methods of reducing costs of production and distribution, demand and prices, trends of fluctuations in production, prices and the incomes of the peasants, provision and use of credit for agriculture, scale of enterprise, economical use of labour and machinery, and gross and net income in relation to output and consumption.

There is no mention at all of any of these items. Then, Sir, domestic and international trade also ought to be studied according to this Hot Springs Conference—and other aspects of national and international economy. Their land tenure and co-operative system should also be studied, the possibilities for giving subsidies for production have to be studied. Then, they have to study adult education and the presenting of the case of the agriculturist for loans before their respective Governments as well as the monetary organisation. Then, there is the provision of alternative employment for our agriculturists in case they are un-employed as a result of any economical methods of production which may be introduced. They also propose that the Governments concerned should study the enlargement of foreign markets and increased storage, processing and marketing facilities and commodity arrangements. The Government of India have not thought, that through this Committee it may be possible for them or they expected this Committee to try to get into commodity arrangements with the producers of rice in other countries so that it may not be possible for them to dump their surplus rice in this country. There is no such proposal at all.

Even coming to the Reconstruction Committee of the Executive Council, I find that their idea of the future of the agriculturist in this country is much more liberal than what is now proposed to be done by this Committee and by the Government. Their scheme also includes organised marketing, financing of agriculture, common buying and selling, crop planning, elimination of middlemen, imports of foodgrains to be controlled, guaranteed prices to be assured to the peasants. Then, Sir, they suggest that the Central Government must accept responsibility for greatly increased measure of expert advice, equipment, finances to the provinces and also maintenance of Central research. But this Government comes forward and says that the Central Government will give up as many of these responsibilities as possible. They must do the minimum possible work so far as the peasants are concerned and the peasants themselves should finance their own research and their own marketing. There is no effort being made to give any kind of assurance that the Central Government will be prepared to place funds at least to the extent to which this Committee is going to provide through this exchequer duty.

Coming to the details of this Committee, I find that an unequal representation has been provided for the various provinces. As my Honourable friend Dr. Banerjee pointed out the other day, all our provinces are not equally interested in the production of rice. Bengal comes first and Madras comes next and then all other provinces. But it is proposed that all the provinces should be given equal representation. In other clauses also the Government seem to be aware of the unequal importance and therefore they have provided differing quantum of representation on this Committee. That is a very serious mistake. If they are anxious that every province must be represented on this Committee, then it is open to them to see that no province which deserves more representation than the minimum is denied that additional representation merely because the smallest producing provinces have to be given the minimum representation. Sir, there are to be 51 members on this Committee. The Government suggests that the growers, who are actually going to pay this cess and for whom this Committee is intended, are to have only 14 members. The other 37 members are to represent various other interests. They may say that Provincial Governments are going to represent the growers and various other classes also but the quantum of representation given to the Provincial Governments does not necessarily mean that the growers are going to be represented in the main. Then, they suggest as many as 12 representatives for the rice industry.

Mr. N. M. Joshi (Nominated Non-Official): What about the consumers?

Prof. N. G. Ranga: They are supposed to be consumers. Then there is the Associated Chambers of Commerce. I knew that the Europeans had a number of rice mills in Burma, but I did not know that they owned so many rice mills in this country as to deserve so much representation on this Committee.

[Prof N G Ranga]

These 10 representatives are to come here on behalf of the Provincial Governments. The Provincial Governments are to send 12 people representing rice industry. We do not know whether the Provincial Governments are going to be given so much power as to decide who is to represent the rice trade and industry. These very same Provincial Governments are given also the right to select the so-called representatives of the growers. Why should it be so? Whenever you make any representation for the labour or trade and commerce of this country, you certainly do not give the right to the Provincial Governments concerned to select the representatives on behalf of these concerned interests. On the other hand, you try your best to get the real representatives of these concerned interests. Then, why is it that you do not take any trouble to make any provision for the automatic representation to be provided on this Committee for the organisations that are there today in this country for the concerned interests, that is, the growers of paddy and the producers of rice.

Then, Sir, they give the power to the Governor General to determine the tenure of office for these people as to how many years they are to work and at what stage any particular member's place on this Committee will be terminated. This is too drastic a power to be given to the Governor General. If this Committee is to come into existence at all and if its members are to be as much of a definite tenure of office, then it ought not to be left to the discretion of the Governor General to fix the tenure of office for these members but it ought to be fixed by this House. It is too late in the day for the Government to come here and ask this House to agree to an official President for a Committee like this. Even for such a House as this, we have a non-official President and for a Committee of the type that is now under consideration that is all the more reason why we must have a non-official President. The proposed President happens to be also the Vice-Chairman of I.C.A.R. I would like the Government to tell us on how many Committees he is expected to preside. And the number of these Committees is constantly increasing. These Committees are generally appointed by I.C.A.R. I know on very good authority that this gentleman has not even find sufficient time to preside over these Committees to give his advice and suggestion to them. It also sometimes happens that because it is not so easy for this gentleman to preside over all the sessions of these Committees, the duration of these Committees is sometimes curtailed very much. Therefore, it is best for the Government to try to introduce the principle of having non-official Presidents not only for this Committee but for several other Committees also.

There is a strong body of public opinion in this country that this House should not proceed with this Bill. There are many Honourable Members even in this House who are definitely opposed to the principle underlying this Bill. And, for very good reasons too. I have already given some, and I propose to give one more and it is this. Where a big interest like this is concerned, where all the consumers in the country are so much interested in getting more and more produce, it ought not to be the special concern of the producers alone, first of all to pay for it and to organise it and look after the progress of this industry. The responsibilities of the consumers also must be recognised and secondly for a body of producers like these, it is the responsibility of the Government as a whole as well as the Provinces to take up all relevant questions concerning their welfare and progress and develop the necessary institutions, finance the necessary research and provide adequate warehousing facilities, assure them of a minimum price, minimum and reasonable standard of living and give them every possible encouragement so that they would be willing, they would be encouraged to continue their present praiseworthy and industrious activities in this most essential national product and also hope for a better future so far as their own daily activity is concerned. But I find that this Government is not interested in that production and that is why I find it impossible to associate myself with this Bill and agree with the Honourable Member Opposite to send the Bill to the Select Committee.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Has the Honourable Member moved his amendment?

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Yes, Sir, I already moved it.

Mr. Hoeseinbhoy A. Lalljee (Bombay Central Division. Muhammadan Rural). I have an amendment in my name which I may be permitted to move.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Is it also for circulation?

Mr. Hoeseinbhoy A. Lalljee: No, Sir. It is for altering the date, from 14th November to 17th November. I move.

"That in the original motion for the words '14th November, 1944' the words '17th November, 1944' be substituted."

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) Amendment moved

"That in the original motion for the words '14th November, 1944' the words '17th November, 1944' be substituted."

The discussion will now proceed on the original motion as well as the amendments

Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan (Madura and Ramnad cum Tinnevely Non-Muhammadan Rural) **Mr. President**, my Honourable friend from Nellore was quite right when he said that there was a good deal of opposition to this Bill in the country, and that some Honourable Members of this House agree with it. I am opposed to this Bill and I would urge this Honourable House to reject it completely. If they think that it is too drastic a course, I would commend to them the amendment moved by my Honourable friend Prof. Ranga.

First, let me assure this House, Sir, that I fully appreciate the importance and the need for improving the production and marketing of rice and rice products and research in rice. But I am fully convinced that this Bill does not recommend the correct method of achieving that purpose. It has become a habit with this Government to create funds and constitute Committees to spend those funds, ostensibly with the object of improving the production and marketing and so forth of a certain product. The statement of Objects and Reasons itself reminds us that there are already in existence a certain number of funds and Committees to spend them. But that is no argument for bringing forward further legislation of the same kind. To the man in the street, the impression is that while these ornamental Committees meet occasionally to survey the work of their Departments under highly paid officials, the condition of the common man has, far from improving, actually deteriorated. As for example, tea and coffee have become completely prohibitive luxuries to the poor man.

Apart from that general question, Sir, I agree with my Honourable friend Prof. Ranga that rice cannot be included in the same category of products, such as tea and coffee and I agree with the reasons he has stated. Rice is the universal commodity of food in our country, grown by millions of small cultivators, while tea and coffee and like products are produced by a limited number of people, generally wealthy capitalists who are more interested in the export of these products than in their marketing inside the country. But the marketing of rice will be marketing of staple food in the country and it naturally deserves a different kind of consideration.

I assert again that I do consider it is necessary to improve the cultivation of rice by research. But it should not be done by imposing a burden on the poor with extra taxation. I agree with Prof. Ranga that the system of levying a cess to collect money for this fund which this Bill is going to create is not the right process by which we should collect funds. Land and agriculture are provincial subjects and a large portion of the provincial revenues come from land tax which is the highest tax that prevails in this country. It is the primary responsibility therefore of the Provincial Governments to conduct research in products from land such as rice. I also do not understand why this Government should single out rice for research at this particular moment and

[Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan.]

not pay any heed to other commodities such as millets, particularly wheat, which would give more scope for research. Some of the cultivators of rice in Madras asked me, is it because the Government of India do not want to go contrary to the wishes of their favourite, the Punjab Government, as that Government surely will not be prepared to allow the Central Government to intrude on their provincial domain and to burden their cultivators with an excise duty. If I remember right, I think the Honourable Mover of this Bill mentioned that almost all Provincial Governments, with one exception, supported this Bill. But I should like to point out to this House that the opinion of the present Provincial Governments are not likely to represent the popular point of view. Most of the rice producing provinces are under section 93 and the few others . . .

Mr. J. D. Tyson (Secretary, Department of Education, Health and Lands) What about Bengal which is the largest rice-growing province? That is not under section 93.

Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan: I was just going to refer to that point. The provinces which appear to have popular Governments do not really enjoy the benefits of a popular Government in the strictest sense of the term. When such is the case, I think it is very wrong for an irresponsible alien Government that we have today to be influenced by similar and semi-irresponsible Governments in the provinces. That is an additional reason for urging this House to consider that there is no urgency for this measure at the present moment.

Another objection which has already been stated by my Honourable friend Prof. Ranga is that this excise duty will fall on what are known as producer-consumers. In my province,—and I am not arrogating to myself any knowledge of the conditions in my province, which I actually do not have, there is a vast number of cultivators who are producer-consumers, and I feel sure that this excise duty will fall very heavily on them. I do feel, Sir, that it is wrong to burden them especially when land is a provincial subject and the Provincial Governments are already taxing it to its maximum capacity. It is highly unjust for the Central Government to encroach on the duties of the Provincial Governments by this insidious method of levying a cess. I do not know if the Central Government have got the legal right, that is a matter for the legal *pundits* to consider. But I do feel that they have no moral right what ever to levy this cess on produce from land. This Government could ask for contributions from the Provincial Governments from their land revenues if they want this Government to do their work for them.

The Honourable the Mover of the Bill remarked that the cess would work out to less than one pice per maund and only one anna per person in a rice eating family. I do not know how he arrived at the latter calculation, how he could find out how many rice eating families there are and how many members there are in a rice-eating family, in the short time that he has had to consider the subject. However, even if it is true, I do deprecate the habit of the Government, of emphasising the plea that it works out only to so many pices or so many annas per head, every time legislation is being considered for fresh taxation in this country. Government ignores the fact that pices develop into annas, annas develop into rupees, and the vast majority of people in this country are in rags and are facing semi, and often complete, starvation. It was only the other day that I read in the press a report of a statement made by one of our great scientists in London,—I believe it was Sir J. C. Ghose,—that on the present average wage in India her people could only live as a half-naked and half-starved nation. When such is the condition of the overwhelming mass of people in this country, it is wrong at this present juncture, when life is becoming harder and harder for this Government to add to the burden of taxation and give a further tendency to raise the price of food commodities. For, as my Honourable friend, Prof. Ranga, has already pointed

out, though this tax is to be paid by the millowner, it will eventually fall on the producer and the consumer

I would also point out that though the Honourable Mover of the Bill says it is only six annas a ton it will, in practice, be many times six annas, for there will be a number of incidental expenses connected with the payment of this cess. For instance, the millowner will have to invest more in paper, which is difficult because of paper scarcity, he will have to undertake many trips,—if he is living in a village,—to the headquarters town to get the requisite forms and to get proper instructions about the filling in of these forms and the keeping of records. And as we know from our experience in this country for over a hundred years, no official can be seen without some little present,—to use a mild term,—being offered to several petty subordinates. All these items may appear trivial when I mention them here but when added up they make the cess, which appears to be small, really a large one.

In passing, I should like to say with regard to paper that while Government through the department of my Honourable friend the Commerce Member proclaim day in and day out that because there is scarcity of paper the public should be economical in its use, Government themselves find ways and means to be extravagant in the use of paper. Douglas Reed in one of his books points out that the same thing happens in England, and I suppose this Government, being subordinate to that Government, must follow its example. If we make a survey of all the legislation that has been brought forward in this House by Government, we shall find that innumerable kinds of forms have been prescribed and printed and all kinds of records are to be kept involving much expenditure on paper. But that, as I said, is just in passing. My main point here is that it will be very hard, particularly for small millowners in villages who come under this Act, to keep these records and fill in these forms and get proper instructions about them.

I do not want to go into many details with regard to the clauses but I should like just to refer to a few of them. I am afraid, Sir, that if this Bill is passed into law it will become an instrument for harassing and persecuting the millowners. I am convinced, from my knowledge of conditions in my province, that if the war continues and this Bill comes into force during the war, it will become an instrument for extorting contributions to the war fund as the sales tax is being used today. Another point I should like to mention, is that I find it difficult to approve of the clause which makes the decision of Government final when there is a dispute between a millowner and Government with regard to the assessment of the cess. I know there are other Acts which have such provisions, but it does not follow that it is a good system. I do feel that when a decision has to be arrived at in respect of a dispute between two parties, the opinion of one of them should not be the final decision. While discussing this point with some of my Honourable colleagues, they pointed out to me that if this is not done litigation will increase, but I do not think that litigation will increase to such an extent as to cause inconvenience either to the public or to the Government or to the courts. I think the Central Government is inclined to take upon itself the rights and duties of a court of law and this tendency must be checked as far as possible. With regard to the people, as far as I know, it is much more expensive to appeal to the Government and get their decision than to secure a verdict from the courts; and in the latter case there is at least the satisfaction that a judiciary has given an impartial decision while such satisfaction is not possible when an appeal is made to the Government about its own action. I also do not like that the Collector should be invested with as much authority as this Bill proposes to do in sections 11, 12 and 13. I am afraid that if the Collector has such powers—there may be many Collectors who are conscientious and efficient and I cast no aspersions on them as a class—but they are dependent on their subordinate officials for doing the routine work—and these powers of the Collectors might help in making this Bill as I said before an instrument for harassment and persecution of millowners.

[Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan.]

Whatever be the measures and however good they may be that are brought forward by this Government, I do feel that the benefit of these measures cannot be realized to the fullest extent as long as this Government is not responsive and responsible to the people. That, of course, has been said here repeatedly. But I must point out that it is also an argument for the rejection of this most imperfect measure. I would also emphasise that at the present moment when the country is going through a food crisis, I do feel it is the duty of this Government to direct as much as possible of their attention, energy—and I hope they have plenty of energy—and revenues for supplying the people of this country with food and other necessities of life and saving them from death by starvation and epidemics. During all these many years when our country has been under British Rule, no effort was made to improve the rice cultivation. What hurry is there now to bring forward a measure of this kind to do it, particularly when everybody admits that a full and general survey has to be made of everything concerning the welfare of the people for post-war reconstruction. For years, rice cultivation has been deteriorating and the area under rice has been decreasing as far as I can understand. This Bill gives no guarantee that it is going to tackle the question, whether those cultivators who were tempted to abandon rice cultivation for the production of what is known as money crops, like jute, will be encouraged to revert back to rice cultivation in view of the fact that there is not sufficient food in the country, and it must not be dependent on imports of foodgrains. When one thinks over this matter deeply, one wonders whether this Government has brought forward this measure just because there has been a great deal of criticism in this country and outside about the Government's policy or lack of policy to tackle the food question in this country efficiently, and they now want to show that they are greatly concerned about this matter and that they are doing their best. Or, is it because they want to give a patriotic colour to the cloak with which they cover their policy of intensive exploitation of this country for the benefit of our alien rulers. When all these questions are facing us, I do think it is wrong for us to support a measure of this kind and I ask the House to reject it or circulate it for public opinion.

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait (West Coast and Nilgiris Muhammadan)

Sir, the House will remember that I moved an amendment to send this Bill for circulation in order to elicit public opinion before the 28th of February, 1945. I will confine myself to my amendment alone. I won't go into the merits of the Bill, nor will I take the House through its clauses.

At the outset I want to make it clear that I quite appreciate the objective behind the Bill. I not only agree with it, but I am willing to support it to the farthest extent that I can go, but what I feel is that rice is a matter too vast to be dealt with in a hurried and hasty way. My Honourable friend has modelled this Bill on the Acts that we have passed for constituting committees for coffee, tea, coconut, and so on. Coffee, coconut, tea and things like that are located in certain small areas in this country. They are comparatively small crops and can be dealt with in a much easier manner than rice. Rice is a very important food crop in this country and it is grown over vast tracts of land. The life of millions and millions of people depends on it and everybody, all over the country, is very much interested in seeing that we are able to produce more rice, better rice and produce it much more easily. Therefore, I feel that the people in the country should be given an opportunity to express their views with regard to what they consider necessary for achieving these objects. My Honourable friend himself has supported me in my demand for circulation in stating that by circulating the Bill departmentally to the Provincial Governments he was able to get from them some very useful suggestions which he has incorporated in this Bill. If official circulation of it to the Provincial Governments was of so much use, I certainly feel that if the whole country—people who are interested in it, associations of cultivators, co-operative

societies, and so on—is given an opportunity to express its views on this matter, we will certainly receive very many more useful suggestions which may help the object that we have in view. Then, Sir, I have one or two points on which I should like the country to express its view. I do not think, Sir, that the Bill as it is placed before the House is an adequate measure for gaining the object that my Honourable friend has in mind.

(It being Five O'Clock.)

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member can continue his speech to-morrow.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Wednesday, the 15th November, 1944.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Wednesday, 15th November, 1944

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber of the Council House at Eleven of the Clock, Mr President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) in the Chair.

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(a) ORAL ANSWERS

COMMUNAL COMPOSITION IN HIGHER POSTS OF OFFICES UNDER DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, HEALTH AND LANDS

398. *Sardar Sant Singh: (a) Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state the number of posts carrying monthly salaries of Rs. 500 to Rs 750, Rs 750 to Rs 1,000, Rs 1,000 to Rs 1,500 and Rs 1,500 and above in (i) his Department, (ii) the office of the Director General, Indian Medical Service, (iii) the office of the Director General of Archaeology in India, (iv) the office of the Surveyor General of India, (v) the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research, (vi) the Central Agricultural Marketing Department, (vii) the Imperial Institute of Sugar Technology and (viii) Miscellaneous?

(b) How many of these posts under each category are held by (i) Europeans, (ii) Anglo-Indians, (iii) Hindus, (iv) Muslims, (v) Sikhs and (vi) others?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) and (b) A statement furnishing the required information is laid on the table of the House. Since the scales of pay for services and posts under the control of the Department of Education, Health and Lands do not correspond strictly with the categories of pay mentioned by the Honourable Member, it has not been possible to indicate in the statement the number of posts. Instead, the number of officers drawing pay falling within the said different categories has been shown.

Statement showing the number of officers drawing monthly salaries of Rs. 500 to Rs 749, Rs 750 to Rs. 999, Rs 1,000 to Rs 1,499 and Rs 1,500 and above in the Department of Education, Health and Lands and the offices attached and subordinate to it, and the communities to which they belong

Officers drawing pay between	Total number of officers	Community of Officers					
		Euro-peans	Anglo-Indians	Hindus	Muslims	Sikhs	Others
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
<i>I.—Department of Education, Health and Lands</i>							
(1) Rs. 500 and 749	10	..	..	8	1	1	..
(2) Rs. 750 and 999	4	..	..	3	1	..	..
(3) Rs. 1,000 and 1,499	7*	..	..	5	1	1	..
(4) Rs. 1,500 and above	11†	4	..	4	..	1	2
<i>II.—Office of the Director General, Indian Medical Service (including that of the Public Health Commissioner with the Government of India)</i>							
(1) Rs. 500 and 749	10	..	2	6	2	..	..
(2) Rs. 750 and 999	5	4	..	1	..	..	..
(3) Rs. 1,000 and 1,499	4	2	..	1	..	..	1
(4) Rs. 1,500 and above	18	8	..	3	1	..	1
<i>III.—Archaeological Department</i>							
(1) Rs. 500 and 749	8	1	..	3	4	..	..
(2) Rs. 750 and 999	1	..	..	..	1	..	..
(3) Rs. 1,000 and 1,499	6	1	..	2	2	..	..
(4) Rs. 1,500 and above	1	1	..	..	..	..	..

*The names of Mr. J. McIntyre, D.A.F. (Manures) and Sir Datar Singh, Cattle Utilisation Officer, have not been taken into consideration as both these officers have been appointed on a nominal salary of Rs. 1 p. m.

†This includes R. B. G. Sen, Deputy Secretary, as his pay plus pension exceeds Rs. 1,500.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
<i>IV.—Survey of India Department</i>								
(1) Rs. 500 and 749	24	6	6	8	4	1	..	..
(2) Rs. 750 and 999	13	2	6	3	1	1	..	..
(3) Rs. 1,000 and 1,499	19	5	4	7	3	..	..	..
(4) Rs. 1,500 and above	25	22	2	1	..	..	..	..
<i>V.—Imperial Council of Agricultural Research</i>								
(1) Rs. 500 and 749	3	..	..	2	1	..	..	..
(2) Rs. 750 and 999	2	..	..	2	..	..	..	..
(3) Rs. 1,000 and 1,499	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
(4) Rs. 1,500 and above	4	3	..	1	..	..	..	..
<i>VI.—Central Agricultural Marketing Department</i>								
(1) Rs. 500 and 749	5	..	..	3	1	1	..	..
(2) Rs. 750 and 999	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
(3) Rs. 1,000 and 1,499	2	..	..	1	1	..	..	..
(4) Rs. 1,500 and above	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..
<i>VII.—Imperial Institute of Sugar Technology</i>								
(1) Rs. 500 and 749	4	..	..	3	1	..	..	..
(2) Rs. 750 and 999	2	..	..	3	..	..	..	..
(3) Rs. 1,000 and 1,499	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
(4) Rs. 1,500 and above	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..
<i>VIII.—Imperial Agricultural Research Institute</i>								
(1) Rs. 500 and 749	6	..	..	5	1	..	..	..
(2) Rs. 750 and 999	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
(3) Rs. 1,000 and 1,499	2	..	..	1	..	..	..	1
(4) Rs. 1,500 and above	2	1	..	..	..	1	..	..
<i>IX.—Imperial Veterinary Research Institute</i>								
(1) Rs. 500 and 749	6	..	..	6	..	1	..	..
(2) Rs. 750 and 999	3	..	..	2	1	..	..	..
(3) Rs. 1,000 and 1,499	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
(4) Rs. 1,500 and above	3	3	..	..	..	..	..	..
<i>X.—Imperial Dairy Department</i>								
(1) Rs. 500 and 749	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..
(2) Rs. 750 and 999	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
(3) Rs. 1,000 and 1,499	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
(4) Rs. 1,500 and above	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..
<i>XI.—Forest Research Institute and College, Dehra Dun</i>								
(1) Rs. 500 and 749	11	..	..	6	4	1	..	..
(2) Rs. 750 and 999	6	1	..	4	..	1	..	..
(3) Rs. 1,000 and 1,499	5	2	..	1	2	..	..	..
(4) Rs. 1,500 and above	9	6	..	3	..	..	..	..
<i>XII.—Botanical Survey of India</i>								
(1) Rs. 500 and 749	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..
(2) Rs. 750 and 999	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
(3) Rs. 1,000 and 1,499	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..
(4) Rs. 1,500 and above	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
<i>XIII.—Zoological Survey of India</i>								
(1) Rs. 500 and 749	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
(2) Rs. 750 and 999	2	..	..	2	..	..	..	..
(3) Rs. 1,000 and 1,499	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..
(4) Rs. 1,500 and above	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
<i>XIV.—Imperial Record Department</i>								
(1) Rs. 500 and 749	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
(2) Rs. 750 and 999	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
(3) Rs. 1,000 and 1,499	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..
(4) Rs. 1,500 and above	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
<i>XV.—Imperial Library, Calcutta</i>								
(1) Rs. 500 and 749	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
(2) Rs. 750 and 999	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
(3) Rs. 1,000 and 1,499	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..
(4) Rs. 1,500 and above	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
<i>XVI.—Indian Central Cotton Committee</i>								
(1) Rs. 500 and 749	7	..	..	7	..	..	..	..
(2) Rs. 750 and 999	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
(3) Rs. 1,000 and 1,499	2	..	..	1	..	..	1	..
(4) Rs. 1,500 and above	2	..	..	..	1	..	1	..

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
XVII.—Indian Central Jute Committee							
(1) Rs 500 and 749 ..	1	..	..	1	..	..	1*
(2) Rs 750 and 999 ..	3	..	..	1	1	..	..
(3) Rs 1,000 and 1,499 ..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..
(4) Rs 1,500 and above ..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..
XVIII.—Indian Lac Case Committee							
(1) Rs. 500 and 749 ..	4	..	..	4	..	..	..
(2) Rs. 750 and 999 ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
(3) Rs. 1,000 and 1,499 ..	1	..	..	1	..	..	..
(4) Rs. 1,500 and above ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
XIX.—Delhi Polytechnic							
(1) Rs. 500 and 749 ..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1
(2) Rs. 750 and 999 ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
(3) Rs. 1,000 and 1,499 ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
(4) Rs. 1,500 and above ..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..
XX.—Central Quinine Office							
(1) Rs. 500 and 749 ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
(2) Rs. 750 and 999 ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
(3) Rs. 1,000 and 1,499 ..	1	..	..	1	..	..	..
(4) Rs. 1,500 and above ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

*Indian Xian

BLACK-OUT ON PRINCIPAL THOROUGHFARES OF NEW DELHI

399. *Sardar Sant Singh: (a) Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands state the reasons for having complete blackout on the principal thoroughfares of New Delhi even in dark nights?

(b) Is he aware that Government servants when going to their homes after late office hours have met with several accidents due to complete darkness?

(c) What steps does he propose to remove this grievance of the New Delhi residents?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) Owing to difficulties in obtaining electric light bulbs, the streets in New Delhi have recently been inadequately lit, but it is an exaggeration to speak of a complete blackout. The lighting has been improved since the receipt of a consignment of bulbs in the middle of September last.

(b) During the period from January 1943 to August 1944, 23 accidents involving motor vehicles, cyclists and pedestrian are known to have occurred at night in New Delhi. No information is on record to show how many Government servants were involved or in how many cases the accident was due to the inadequate street lighting.

(c) Further improvement in lighting will be effected as soon as more bulbs become available.

Sardar Sant Singh: May I know if it is a fact that all these days the American buildings situated in Queensway were fully lighted, rather over-lighted, throughout the night, while the municipal areas were in darkness?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I do not know how the American buildings are lighted or where they get their bulbs from.

Sardar Sant Singh: The American buildings are situated in Queensway and they are completely lighted from evening till morning.

Mr. J. D. Tyson: The Honourable Member has not put any question.

Sardar Sant Singh: If the lack of bulbs is the excuse for not lighting New Delhi streets, how is it that the same lack is not felt by the Americans?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: As I said, Sir, I do not know from what source the Americans get their bulbs.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: What arrangement has been made to prevent thefts of bulbs during the nights?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I understand that locks are now fitted to the tops of the lamps.

CONTROVERSY IN LINE SYSTEM INTRODUCED BY ASSAM GOVERNMENT.

400. *Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: (a) Has the attention of the Honourable the Leader of the House been drawn to the controversy between the Government of Assam and the Government of Bengal on the line system introduced by the Assam Government?

(b) Have the Government of India considered the ultimate effect of such controversy which leads to the starvation of the people?

(c) Did the Central Government intervene in this matter, if not, why not?

(d) Have the Government of India a joint responsibility for the supply of food to the people of this country and save them from dying on account of starvation?

(e) If the answer to (c) is in the affirmative, why did the Government of India shrink from their responsibility of enforcing the production of rice in places where it could be grown and by labour which is available?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) The Government of India are aware that objections have been raised in certain quarters to the so-called "line system" in Assam but they are not aware that it has been the subject of controversy between the Governments of Assam and Bengal.

(b) and (c) Do not arise

(d) The Government of India recognise a responsibility in the matter of the supply of food in the present emergency

(e) Does not arise

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: May I know if the Honourable Member is aware of the fact that there were 200,000 labourers present in Assam, who were willing to cultivate land in Assam in order to produce rice and this was denied, with the result that it led to the starvation of the people of Bengal?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I am not aware of that at all

Mr. N. M. Joshi: What is the Line System?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: If I might read about three sentences from a Resolution of the Government of Assam, dated 6th March 1942, I think that will explain the Line System

"District Officers adopted such measures as seemed most likely to prevent, or at any rate check, the spread of immigrants to areas where their entry would have had these detrimental results. In pursuance of this policy, the submontane areas were more or less closed to them elsewhere where there was a demand for land from both the immigrants and the local people, areas in individual villages open to each were delimited by means of "Lines" and, where the demand for land from the local people was negligible, large blocks extending over several square miles were constituted into 'Colonisation areas' for settlement with immigrants. This is in general outline what is known as the 'Line System'."

I understand the reference to "Lines" is to lines both on the map and on the ground

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: What is the reply to part (c) of the question, viz., why did the Government not intervene in this matter?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: It does not arise, because we are not aware of any controversy between the Government of Assam and the Government of Bengal.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: May I know whether the Government of India are aware of the fact that the Government of Bengal did apply to the Government of Assam to allow the land to be cultivated and that the request was refused with the result that it led to the shortage of rice in Bengal and elsewhere?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: We are not aware, Sir, of any controversy between the Government of Bengal and Government of Assam, neither are we aware of any reference to the Central Government from either of them indicating that there was such a controversy between these two Provincial Governments.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Is it not a fact that the Department of Agriculture ought to be aware of the fact that there is a shortage of rice and when this opportunity offered itself no advantage was taken by the Government of India nor did they intervene in the matter?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: We are quite aware of the shortage of rice. The Honourable Member is, I think, begging the question when he assumes that rice can possibly be grown on these lands in Assam.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: If the Honourable Member doubts whether the rice of the quality which is consumed in Bengal does not grow in Assam, then I have nothing more to say.

POLICY RE RELIGIOUS AND MORAL INSTRUCTION.

401. *Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: (a) Has the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands seen the report of the President, Board of Education, laid before the Parliament and the Bill laid before the House on the basis of the report?

(b) Are the Government of India contemplating to modify their policy about religious and moral instruction?

(c) Will the Government of India consider the expenditure under religious instruction as an approved item in the consideration of the grant?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) Yes

(b) The Central Advisory Board of Education have appointed a Special Committee to examine the question of religious education in schools. The Government of India await the recommendations of the Board.

(c) The Government of India will consider the question in the light of the recommendations that the Board may make.

Sardar Sant Singh: What is the personnel of this Committee?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I want notice of that. It is a Committee of the Central Advisory Board.

Sardar Sant Singh: May I know if Sikhs are included in this Committee?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I cannot say, Sir.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I know whether the Government of India will consult the Legislature before they accept the principle that they should pay for the religious education of the communities in India?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: We can certainly bear that in mind when we receive the report.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Do the Government make any distinction between theology and religion. Are religious and theological education one and the same thing?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I am not quite sure that any theology is taught in schools.

LEGISLATION ON BASIS OF SARGENT REPORT.

402. *Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: (a) Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state whether the Government of India are contemplating to introduce a Bill in the Legislature on the basis of Sargent's report?

(b) If the answer to (a) is in the affirmative, will the Government consider the proposal of the selection of candidates for Secondary Schools?

(c) Have the Government of India devised any method to avoid the danger that selection may lead to the monopoly by few classes?

(d) Have the Government of India ascertained that the scheme of selection will be resented by those classes who are educationally backward?

(e) What steps, if any, are the Government contemplating to take to help these persons?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) The Report of the Central Advisory Board of Education on Post-War Educational Development in India is still under the consideration of the Government.

(b) Does not arise.

(c), (d) and (e) The Government of India are fully alive to the question they recognize that pending the complete establishment of the comprehensive system of education, which would cater impartially for all, special measures may be necessary during the transitional period to safeguard the interests of educationally backward communities and there is nothing in the Report of the Central Advisory Board of Education which precludes Educational Authorities from taking such measures as they may think necessary in this connection.

DESIRABILITY OF INCREASING THE NUMBER OF MEDICAL MEN.

403. *Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: (a) Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please lay a statement on the floor of the House about the number of

(i) Medical practitioners;

- (ii) Pharmacologists; and
 (iii) Nurses,
 in (1) India, (2) the United Kingdom, and (3) the United States of America per ten thousand population?
 (b) What steps are the Government of India taking to increase the number of medical men in all branches?
 (c) Are the Government of India preparing any plan for the expansion of medical education in this country?
 (d) Are the Government of India aware of the fact that in these days instruction in the prevention of diseases is more important than instruction in curing of diseases?
 (e) What steps have the Government of India taken to modify the courses of instruction on these lines in the existing medical colleges and in the proposed colleges they want to establish?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) A statement is laid on the table of the House. Information regarding Pharmacologists is not available.

(b) Medical teaching institutions are under the control of the Provincial Governments. Many of the Provincial Governments have taken steps to increase the number of admissions and others have proposals under consideration.

(c) The Health Survey and Development Committee are examining the question. Plans will be drawn up after their report has been received and considered.

(d) The Government of India are aware that competent authorities attach great importance to the instruction of medical students in the social and preventive aspects of medicine.

(e) The Government of India have no authority to modify courses of instruction in medical colleges and schools.

Statement showing the number of Doctors and Nurses in the United Kingdom, United States of America and India

	Number of doctors per 10,000 of population	Number of nurses per 10,000 of population
United Kingdom	10 10,000	27 10,000
United States of America	13 10,000	18 10,000
India	1 10,000	02 10,000

Note—The figures are approximate

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I know why Government have not considered the advisability of adopting, for creating civilian doctors, the same procedure by which army doctors are created in the course of about two years, instead of five years as at present?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I am not aware of the procedure to which my Honourable friend refers by which army doctors are created in two years instead of five. It is not possible.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Will my Honourable friend make an inquiry and get the details and go into it whether it is not possible, in order to create medical men for normal rural areas in a shorter number of years than at present in the medical colleges?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I think this matter is under constant examination, but the Honourable Member will appreciate that we cannot allow medical institutions to put out on the countryside with a certificate of competency to practise, people who in fact have not attained that standard. We must protect the public.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: With reference to part (b) of my question is it not a fact that the Government of India have got direct responsibility for at

least three universities—What have they done for medical education in those three universities?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: That, I think, is for the universities themselves

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: That means that medical education will always be given in universities, not outside, and there are three universities under the direct control of the Government of India. What has the Government of India done for imparting medical education in these three universities?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I am afraid I must ask for notice of that

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: There are three universities—Delhi, Benares and Aligarh. Have Government done anything to spread medical education or help medical education in any of these three universities?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I think there is a proposal under examination for the creation of a medical faculty in Delhi. At present our medical teaching institutions in the Delhi area are affiliated with the Punjab University. But I know there is a project to have a medical faculty in the Delhi University, to which of course they will then be affiliated. I am not quite sure what stage the matter has reached.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Has the Government of India not heard of the establishment of a medical faculty in Aligarh, for which Rs. 4 lakhs has already been secured?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: Yes, the Honourable Member himself has spoken to me about it.

Sardar Sant Singh: May I know if any suggestions or proposals have been received from Benares or Aligarh universities to ask the help of the Government of India for creating medical colleges there?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: In regard to Benares I have no information off-hand. As regards Aligarh, I know they have been collecting money whether they have actually asked us for money for that specific activity I do not know. The Aligarh University is always asking for money.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: But I should like to know whether the Government of India has ever accepted a recommendation within the last fifteen years.

STANDARD CLOTH.

404. *Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies please state the proportion of the standard cloth to the total production by the Indian mills in the year 1943-44, 1944-45 and the first six months of 1945?

(b) Is it not a fact that the mill-owners reduced the prices of other quality of cloth lower than the prices of the standard cloth and subsequently raised the prices when the standard cloth was sold out?

(c) What is the cause of the diminution in the proportion of the manufacture of the standard cloth?

(d) Is the Honourable Member aware that certain quality of cloth which is mostly used by the people, such as long cloth or *lathia*, *malmal* is not available in the market at standard prices but these clothes are available only in black markets?

(e) What is the forecast of the Honourable Member about the supply of piece-goods in the year 1944-45?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) The proportion of Standard Cloth to the total production by Indian mills in the year 1943-44 was 14.7 per cent. In 1944-45 it has been 8 per cent. I regret I cannot give the Honourable Member the information he desires about the first six months of 1945, since I am unable to say what will be the extent of the demands which Provinces and States will be placing in early 1945.

(b) No.

(c) As prices of ordinary cloth have come down the demand for Standard Cloth has diminished.

(d) It is not correct to say that certain qualities of cloth such as long-cloth and *malmal* have been available only in black markets. It is quite true

however that there has been a serious shortage of this and other types of fine cloth throughout India recently. This state of affairs has been imposed mainly by the limits of production, and not so much by mal-distribution. The loomage in India for production of finer varieties is now, as it always has been, limited. Before the war much of the finer types of cloth consumed in India was imported. These imports have now practically ceased. The shortage of finer varieties of cloth has come to the forefront recently partly because, owing to the increased purchasing capacity of the people of India as a whole, people are now demanding finer cloth, who before the war were quite content with coarser cloth.

(e) If all goes well, and only if coal supplies and imports of millstones come up to expectations, I have hopes that the quantity of cotton textiles available for the civil market in India in the year 1944-45, after deducting Defence requirements and essential exports, may reach 5,000 million yards, inclusive of handloom production.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Have Government any information that, taking advantage of the reported shortage of fine cloth in India, manufacturers in the United Kingdom and in the United States are making arrangements for the export of finer cloth to India?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I am not aware that they are making arrangements for export of finer cloths to India, they cannot do so without getting import permits from this country.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Have the Government of India been giving any import permits for the import of finer cloth from the United Kingdom and the United States?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: Almost negligible.

Sardar Sant Singh: May I ask whether in view of the fact that the Sikh community uses this fine *malmal* for their *puggies*, he will be pleased to make arrangements by which the Sikh community can get preference in obtaining this cloth?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I thought that in textile matters at least, communal questions are out of place.

Mr. R. B. Gupta: Will the Honourable Member please state whether he will take steps to increase the production of fine cloth in India by allowing the import of suitable machinery immediately?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: Yes, if they are available and if shipping space is available.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is the Honourable Member aware of the widespread prevalence of black markets in regard to the sale of cloth and what steps is he taking to put down or at least to minimise the nuisance of these black markets?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: All I can say is that if any Department has done its level best to control the black market activities, I can claim credit for the textile Department of the Government of India.

LINE SYSTEM INTRODUCED IN ASSAM.

†405. ***Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad:** (a) Has the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands, seen the letter of Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru on the Line System in Assam addressed to Sjt Gopmath Bardoloi in which he suggested that the Government should try the experiment of organisation and planning agriculture and the conditions under which holdings may be given to individuals?

(b) What steps, if any, have the Government taken on this suggestion?

(c) Is it not a fact that over 5½ million acres of land is lying waste in the districts of Assam Valley and no attempt has been made to grow more rice in spite of the fact that labour is available?

(d) What is the cause of such indifference?

†Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner having exhausted his quota.

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) Yes, but only on the 8th November 1944

(b) The suggestions are under examination.

(c) I have been unable to confirm the Honourable Member's estimate of the total area of waste land in the districts of the Assam Valley. Our information is that much of it is not capable of being brought under cultivation on a short-term basis, but the possibilities of extending rice cultivation are under urgent examination.

(d) Does not arise

ESTABLISHMENT OF ALL-INDIA HANDLOOM WEAVERS BOARD.

406. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are contemplating to form an All-India Handloom Weavers or Weaving Control Board or any other such organisation for the protection of handloom weavers, if so, whether they have formulated the objects for which this organisation is to work;

(b) how this Board is to be constituted,

(c) what will be the proportion of representation to be given on it to (i) handloom weavers, (ii) to Provincial Governments, and (iii) spinning mills,

(d) who is to preside over the Board—an official or non-official—, and if he is to be an official, who is he to be;

(e) whether Government propose to place at their disposal any additional funds apart from the present rupees five lakhs annual subvention to finance the working of the Board and also to give additional support to the handloom weaving industry, and

(f) whether Government have received the suggestions of the Madras Presidency Handloom Weavers Federation that weavers ought to be granted at least 2/3rd representation on this proposed Board, and that the over-representation proposed for mill-owners be reduced, etc., and, if so, the reactions of Government to these suggestions?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a), (b) and (c) The Honourable member is referred to my answer to question No. 248 answered on the 10th November 1944

Sir, I am afraid this question was not orally answered and I think it is only fair that I should read out the first portion of that answer

(The Honourable Member then read out the first portion of that answer)

(d) I am not yet in a position to reply to this, as the matter is under consideration

(e) It is not at present contemplated that any sum over and above the present Rs 5 lakhs subvention should be made available

(f) I take it the Honourable Member is referring to the Madras Provincial Handloom Weavers Association, of which he is the Honorary President. Government have the proposals of this Association under consideration at present

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What is the answer to part (c) of this question?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: That is covered by the answer I gave to the first part where I answered (a), (b) and (c) together.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Why is it that the question of prices of yarn is not included in the proposed objects of this board, specially when the Government is proposing to include the question of prices of dyes, chemicals and other things for this industry?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I am not prepared to enter into details of the scope of work of the Board. I have merely mentioned the general outline of the proposal. All these matters will be taken up when the Board will be constituted

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will he also keep in his mind, the question of the prices of yarn also, to be included in the scope of the Board's work?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I will do my best to remember it

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I ask whether the Trade Unions of Weavers will be represented on this Board?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: It is not possible for me to answer that question for the time being.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I ask whether the Honourable Member will remember this question of representation of weavers when he considers this question?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: Yes.

TEXTILE CONTROL BOARD.

407. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies be pleased to state

(a) the number of the members of the Textile Control Board, and the quotas of representation granted to various interested interests, such as the weaving and spinning mills, the Provincial Governments, the consumers, and the cotton growers and handloom weavers?

(b) why only one membership has so far been granted to the one crore and odd handloom weavers,

(c) whether Government propose to increase the representation given (i) cotton growers, and (ii) handloom weavers either by reducing the overweightage given to mill-industrialists or by increasing the total strength of the Board, and, if not, why not?

(d) whether Government received any protests against the present constitution of the Board and the comparative neglect of the handloom weavers from (i) South Indian Handloom Weavers Federation, and (ii) any other organisation, and

(e) what has so far been the assistance given by this Board to the handloom weavers?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) On the Textile Control Board itself there are 25 members of whom 15 represent the Cotton Textile Industry, three the distributors, two consumers' interests, two labour interests, two the cotton growers and one represents the handloom industry.

(b) While there is only one member of the Textile Control Board itself who represents the handloom weavers, there is a Handloom Committee of the Board which represents handloom interests and has ten members. The reason why the representatives of the Cotton Textile Industry predominate on the Board is that the most important, intricate and numerous of the problems which confront the Board are problems connected with matters such as the increase of production, the import of textile machinery and mill-stores, and so on. Problems such as these call for the expert attention of the members of the Cotton Textile Industry. Government are of opinion that, if the Board is to function efficiently it should not be unwieldy in size.

(c) There is a Cotton Committee also of the Control Board which represents the interests of cotton growers and numbers 15 members. Government do not consider it necessary to increase the numerical strength of the Board.

(d) Government have not received any protests from the South Indian Handloom Weavers' Federation but they have naturally enough received protests from plenty of other organisations of all kinds.

(e) On the recommendation of the Board handloom cloth has been exempted from the provisions of the Cotton Cloth and Yarn (Control) Order, 1943. Prices of yarn have been reduced very substantially since the institution of the Board, and the margin between the ex-mill and retail prices of yarn has been reduced from 20 per cent to 15 per cent. Government have at present under consideration the formation of an All-India Handloom Board to advance the interests of the handloom industry.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: In view of the fact that consumers, labour and cotton growers have each got two memberships for their representation on these committees, will the Honourable Member consider the advisability of increasing the quantum of representation given to the handloom weavers from one to two?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: If the increase from one to two would have been a solution of the entire problem of the hand loom industry I would have been prepared to consider it.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: You can make a beginning.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: My friend is labouring under a misapprehension. As it is, because we are anxious to do the fullest justice and do the utmost benefit to the hand loom industry, we are proposing to constitute a Hand Loom Board separately for the hand loom industry.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I ask what is the proportion of the production of hand looms to the production of the mill industry?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: As far as I remember, it is roughly 27 per cent to 30 per cent.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: Have the Government received any representation regarding the inadequacy of the representation of consumer interests on the Board?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I have said that we have received enough protests of all kinds.

Mr. Lalchand Navlakhi: How many members of this House are there on that Textile Board?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I think two members of the Legislature, so far as I remember.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Does the Honourable Member feel satisfied with the way in which this Textile Control Board has been constituted in view of the increasing number of protests that he is receiving?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I have received protests but I fear most of them are based on a misapprehension or a wrong appreciation of the facts. But for the constitution of the Cotton Textile Board, the Indian cotton cloth position, so far as price is concerned, would have reached such a position that it would have been very difficult for anybody to control it.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Is the Honourable Member aware that if such a badly formed Board he could reduce the price by 10 to 12 per cent, if the Board had been properly formed, the prices would have been reduced still further?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I entirely controvert that I do not think any other Board could have done better than what the Textile Board has done.

†408.*

FIXATION OF YARN PRICES

409. ***Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies be pleased to state:

(a) the basis or criteria on which yarn prices are being fixed and regulated, (b) the rate of profit or margin allowed to the yarn manufacturers; and whether Government will consider the advisability of reducing such margin;

(c) whether there is any proposal to further reduce the yarn prices in view of the sufferings of handloom weavers and the huge aggregate profits being made by spinning mills;

(d) the justification for further raising the prices for finer yarns,

(e) whether Government have taken the trouble to enquire about the adverse effects that such a procedure, i.e., raising of prices of yarn of finer counts, is having upon handloom weavers, and

(f) whether Government propose to reconsider the basis on which these yarn prices are being fixed and to reduce the prices of yarn of finer counts?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) Yarn prices are fixed so as to yield a fair return to all mills for production of the type of yarn in question of good quality.

(b) There can be no constant margin of profit allowed to yarn manufacturers. They vary from mill to mill according to the quality of their manufactures, local conditions particularly rates of wages and dearness and food allowance and the standard of efficiency.

†The question was postponed to be answered on the 20th November, 1944.

(c) Yarn prices were reduced in December 1943, March 1944 and June 1944 and I hope Prof Ranga will hear the latter part of the reply carefully. The general effect of these operations may be seen from the example of 20's yarn, the ex-mill price of this before control was Rs 30 or more per 10 lbs, and its present selling price is Rs 11-5-0 per 10 lbs. I do not understand the Honourable Member's reference to the sufferings of the handloom weavers. While handloom weavers are obtaining yarn at greatly reduced control prices, there is no control on the price of their products. Government's information is that the earnings of handloom weavers are now far higher than they have ever been.

(d) Fine Yarn ceiling prices were readjusted in September last as a result of a review. The review disclosed that the prices of Egyptian cottons used for spinning finer yarns, viz, 80's and upwards, had risen steadily, and this rise made an increase in the ceiling price for finer yarns necessary. As prices of handloom products are not controlled, the handloom weaver is in a position to recover in the selling price of his goods any reasonable increase in the price of yarn.

(f) A periodical review of Yarn with ceiling prices will continue to be carried out.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it not a fact that the prices of cloth of finer counts have been reduced recently?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: Do you mean hand loom made or mill made cloth?

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Mill made cloth, of course.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: Prices of every variety of cloth, as I have been saying, have been reduced during the last year and a half.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: When the hand loom weavers are obliged to compete with the mills in regard to the cloth of finer counts, if the prices of yarn of finer counts have been raised and the prices of cloth of finer counts have been lowered, it hits the hand loom industry in competition with the mills?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I have to learn any economics once again if I believe that in war conditions, hand loom productions are not able to stand the competition of the mill products.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Is the Government aware that the mills are paying huge amounts as excess profits tax and the rates fixed for yarn today are certainly not the rates that go to make up the cost of the yarn?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: It is very difficult for me to answer that in reply to a supplementary question.

Sir Vithal N. Chandavarkar: Did the Honourable Member say that the prices were reduced only in December, March and June and not in September last?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I have said that in September last also prices were reduced.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Government have controlled the price. Have they also controlled the stock of yarn?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I am unable to understand the question.

†410.*

†411.*

POWER ALCOHOL INDUSTRY.

412. *Mr. K. C. Neogy: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies be pleased to state the Government policy, if any, regarding encouragement of the growth of a Power Alcohol industry in India?

(b) How many power alcohol plants are now in operation in India and what is their total manufacturing capacity?

†The question was postponed to be answered on the 20th November, 1944.

(c) Have any orders been placed abroad for power alcohol plants? If so, when were these orders placed, and when are they expected to arrive in India, and to which parties are they to be allocated for operation?

The Honourable Sir M. Azisul Huque: (a) The question of the development of Power Alcohol industry is under the consideration of Government.

(b) Four. The total capacity is estimated at between one and three-fourth and two and a half million gallons per year

(c) Yes. Orders were placed in September 1941 in America, but the plants have not as yet been released by the American authorities. If they materialise, they will be allotted to the firms which originally placed the orders.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: Will the Honourable Member throw some light on why the Government's interest in regard to the importation of manufacture of power alcohol plants was kept in cold storage from November 1942 up till now?

The Honourable Sir M. Azisul Huque: They were not kept in cold storage.

Mr. K. O. Neogy: Will the Honourable Member be pleased to indicate the time that the Government expect to take in coming to a final conclusion in the matter?

The Honourable Sir M. Azisul Huque: So far as we are concerned, we have given fullest facilities to get these plants and, as the Honourable Member will see, orders were placed in September 1941. But if the plants are not released, all we can do is to take necessary steps to press the matter.

Mr. K. O. Neogy: I want to know the Government policy in the matter? The Honourable Member said that the matter was under consideration.

The Honourable Sir M. Azisul Huque: So far as the question of policy is concerned, as regards the post-war it is still under consideration. Under existing conditions, the policy has been to encourage the development of power alcohol industry, as will be understood from the fact that we have given help and facilities to import those commodities.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: Will the Honourable Member tell the House what happened to the proposal submitted I believe to the Commerce Department through official channels by a Syndicate of manufacturers belonging to the United Kingdom that they will undertake the supply and erection of power alcohol plants in this country for a small commission on the capital and for royalty rights on the power alcohol produced?

The Honourable Sir M. Azisul Huque: I am not aware of it, but I will make an inquiry in the matter.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Will the Honourable Member make it clear to this House whether it is not true that Government have discouraged the production of power alcohol in this country and are encouraging the use of the charcoal plants to be attached to motor cars and lorries?

The Honourable Sir M. Azisul Huque: That is not correct.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: Will the Honourable Member be pleased to state whether any representation has been made to the Government since November 1942 by the oil interests that are now trading in this country in regard to power alcohol?

The Honourable Sir M. Azisul Huque: No, Sir.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) Next question.

NOTIFICATION FIXING MAXIMUM PRICES OF FOOD GRAINS IN JHARIA COALFIELD MARKETS.

413. ***Mr. K. O. Neogy:** (a) Is the Honourable the Food Member aware that the Additional Deputy Commissioner, Manbhum, in the Province of Bihar, issued a Notification, dated the 9th February, 1944, under the Defence of India Rules fixing the maximum rates of price of rice and other foodgrains in the local markets of Jharia coalfields?

(b) Is it a fact that under the said Notification all collieries in the Jharia coalfields are required to get foodgrains for their labour forces from either of two private "pools" of the Coal Trade Organisations?

(c) Is it a fact that the collieries participating in the Joint Pools have to deposit an amount as security with the Pool authorities? If so, what is the said amount, and in what manner is the money thus collected utilised?

(d) Is it a fact that in violation of the aforesaid notification, the Government of Bihar is supplying rice to the Pool at rates of payment (including the cost of transit to the coalfields), which are higher than those fixed by the said Notification?

(e) Is it a fact that the Additional Deputy Commissioner is also permitting the Pool authorities to levy an extra charge of Re 1 per maund over and above the aforesaid payment on those collieries which are not members of any of the Pools?

(f) Is the Honourable Member aware that in the Province of Bengal collieries employing less than 1,000 labour daily are free to secure their foodstuffs for their labour from the local markets at controlled rates? Do Government propose to take steps to see that similar facilities may be allowed to small collieries in the Province of Bihar?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) Yes.

(b) Yes

(c) It is understood that the two bodies required their members to make a deposit to finance their operations but full details are not readily available

(d) The Bihar Government have charged the Associations the actual cost of rice supplied upto the 1st November, 1944. Bulk of these supplies originated in Nepal where prices were higher than the controlled rate in Bihar. From the 1st November the Bihar Government have decided to charge the local wholesale controlled rate plus annas four administrative charge

(e) Exact information regarding supplies to non-members is not available but has been called for

(f) Yes, but it is not possible to allow similar facilities to the small collieries in Dhanbad-Jharia area as local supplies of rice are quite inadequate to meet their demand

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Has the Honourable Member received a telegraphic representation of late from the Indian Collieries Union in Dhanbad in which, among other things, a statement is made that the local market prices of rice are lower than the control prices in some places and that the prices actually charged to the collieries are even higher than the control prices, which fact perhaps was admitted by the Honourable Member himself?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I have not yet seen the telegram

Mr. K. C. Neogy: I have received a copy of the telegram which has been sent to Honourable Members of Government as well. It may have gone to some other Department. But do I take it, with reference to the reply to part (d) of the question, that the attitude of the Government of Bihar in this matter had the fullest approval of the Government of India, in charging prices at a higher rate than the control prices to the collieries when the Government were expected to give every facility to the collieries for the purpose of increasing their output?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I would not like to say that the policy had the fullest approval of the Government of India, but the Bihar Government strongly felt at that time, under the circumstances prevailing then, that this was the best way of assuring full supplies to the numerous collieries in Bihar

REGISTRATION OF POST WAR CAPITAL GOODS REQUIREMENTS.

414. ***Mr. Manu Subedar:** (a) Will the Honourable the Commerce Member be pleased to state if it is a fact that Government have asked new as well as old enterprises in India to register with Government their requirements for capital goods after the war?

(b) How many companies have given these particulars, and what is the approximate value of the capital goods required by those who have registered their requirements?

(c) Has the response to this request been satisfactory, or do Government think that a considerable number of enterprises have not indicated what they will be wanting in the way of capital goods?

(d) What is the object of Government in getting this information? How do they propose to use this information?

(e) Are any priorities going to be fixed, and, if so, on what principle?

(f) Is it intended to use the information in order to canalise orders to the United Kingdom? If not, what steps would Government take to see that capital goods for India are purchased in the best and the cheapest market?

The Honourable Sir M. Azisul Huque: (a) Not yet

(b) and (c). Do not arise

(d), (e) and (f) The outlines of the scheme will be explained in a press communique which it is hoped to issue shortly

Mr. Manu Subedar: Will the Honourable Member tell this House whether Government propose to fix priorities at all either through the system of import licences or through any other system and choke off private enterprise in the matter of importation of capital goods?

The Honourable Sir M. Azisul Huque: I am afraid I am not in a position to answer the question as the proposal has not taken its final form

Mr. Manu Subedar: Are Government considering in this proposal, which they propose to publish, which will be the best market for India to make purchases of capital goods and which will be the cheapest? May I ask further if they have considered whether Czecho-Slovakia, Belgium, France, Germany and Japan, however much they may be reduced after the war, will be able to produce at a cheaper price than the United Kingdom can give us?

The Honourable Sir M. Azisul Huque: These questions are already under consideration and I cannot say anything on them, but I can say this much as my opinion that so far as I am concerned I will be the last man to go to Japan or Germany after the war is over

Mr. Manu Subedar: Not even if the material is cheaper?

The Honourable Sir M. Azisul Huque: No

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: Not even during the war?

(No reply)

COUPLAND REPORT AND INDIAN CONSTITUTIONAL REFORMS

415. **Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari:** Will the Honourable the Leader of the House please state

(a) whether the Government of India have considered the recommendations for Indian Constitutional reforms submitted to the Nuffield Endowment by Professor Coupland,

(b) the attitude of the Government of India to these proposals; and

(c) whether the systematic weekly broadcasts given in the All India Radio on the Coupland Report for some time past was in pursuance of any policy adopted by the Government of India on this report?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: (a) and (b) I have seen Professor Coupland's Report on the Constitutional Problem in India. The policy of His Majesty's Government, as has been repeatedly declared, is to leave the framing of the future constitution of India to Indians themselves. In view of this, no question arises of the Government of India either considering the recommendations or defining their attitude with regard to them.

(c) Whatever views may be held as to his conclusions, Professor Coupland's Report is undoubtedly a comprehensive study of the Indian constitutional problem, and the broadcasts on the subject arranged by the All-India Radio were intended only to stimulate thought and discussion on constitutional problems among the public.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: May I ask the Honourable Member if he or any of his colleagues have had any part in shaping these proposals of Professor Coupland?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: No

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Is it a fact that a secret and a very select non-official Committee under the auspices of the Government of India is sitting at Delhi for the purpose of developing a scheme of constitution on the lines of the Coupland report?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: I am not aware of it

Sardar Mangal Singh: May I know if the Government of India contemplate to appoint a small Committee to collect materials to frame the future constitution of India?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: Government have not yet considered that question

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: May I ask the Honourable Member with regard to his answer to part (c) whether his Department exercises any scrutiny on the persons chosen to make these broadcasts and whether those who hold opinions which are not considered to be desirable so far as this Government of India is concerned are excluded from such broadcasts?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: No, Sir

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will Government consider the advisability of giving an opportunity to those people who do not agree on purely political and scientific reasons with the conclusions drawn by Professor Coupland to broadcast from the All-India Radio?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: Yes As a matter of fact certain broadcasts have already been made contradicting the views of Professor Coupland

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: Will the Honourable Member give Professor Ranga a chance?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: Yes

INDUSTRIALISTS MISSION TO BRITAIN.

416. *Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies be pleased to state

(a) whether the proposed non-official industrialists mission is being sent at the request of His Majesty's Government or on the initiative of the Government of India or because of a request received from the industrialists in India,

(b) whether arrangements have been made for this mission to visit other countries besides the United Kingdom like the United States of America,

(c) whether the Government of India have requested His Majesty's Government or is His Majesty's Government on its own initiative arranging a reception to this mission in the United Kingdom by the organisation of agencies similar to those reported to have been organised by Sir George Schuster; and

(d) What is the policy of the Government of India underlying the sending of such missions?

The Honourable Sir M. Azimul Huque: (a) On the initiative of the Government of India

(b) The Government of India are making every endeavour to enable the industrialists to visit the United States of America also

(c) His Majesty's Government cordially welcome the visit of the Indian industrialists and are arranging facilities for them to contact leading industrial interests in Britain

(d) The advancement of Indian Industrial Development.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: With reference to part (c), will the Honourable Member say whether the Government of India requested His Majesty's Government to move in the matter and arrange for the reception of the Industrialists?

The Honourable Sir M. Azimul Huque: No, Sir, it was a spontaneous act on the part of His Majesty's Government.

Mr. K. O. Neogy: Has the attention of the Honourable Member been drawn to a newspaper report that a similar roving Mission is likely to be sent to Australia in the near future?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: There has been a newspaper report. The matter is under consideration at this stage.

Mr. K. O. Neogy: On the newspaper report?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: No, Sir.

Mr. Manu Subedar: What will be the agenda for this Mission?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: The nature of the work will be to study the conditions abroad under war conditions and to find out to what extent Indian industrial interest may be served. There may be some who may consider knowledge a sin, but we consider knowledge will be power.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Are any instructions given by the Government of India to this Mission?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: No, Sir.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Do they go at Government cost or at their own cost?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: At their own cost.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: Will the Honourable Member give an assurance that the Government of India or His Majesty's Government will not take any steps to disintegrate such cohesion as might exist amongst the Members of this Mission?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: If this question calls for any reply I would simply say that I consider it impossible that any Government will ever think of doing it.

Mr. Hoosenbhooy A. Lalljee: How long have they been waiting to embark?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: It is not a question of waiting to go. We are anxious to send them as quickly as possible, but the conditions in Europe and in this country do not make it possible for them to go, not for the fact that the Government of India were not anxious that they should go.

Mr. Hoosenbhooy A. Lalljee: For the past how many months have they been waiting?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: For some months.

Mr. K. O. Neogy: Was the personnel of this Mission chosen by the Government or by the individual Members themselves?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: No, Sir, by the Government of India.

SUPPLY OF FOODSTUFFS TO LABOURERS ON MILITARY WORKS AT CHITTAGONG.

417. ***Shaikh Rafuiddin Ahmad Siddique:** Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to state

(a) whether Government are aware that a very large number of labourers employed on military duty are consuming foodstuffs of the civilian people in the Chittagong Division,

(b) whether Government have issued instructions to supply foodstuffs to military labourers from military stocks;

(c) if the answer to (a) be in the affirmative, whether Government proposes to direct the military authorities to feed their men from their own stores, and

(d) if the answer to (b) is in the affirmative, whether Government also proposes to see to the enforcement of the instructions which are more honoured in the breach than in observance?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: Under existing arrangements the Q M G is responsible for supplies of foodgrains to labourers engaged on military works and Defence installations in non-rationed deficit areas. Government have no reason to believe that these arrangements are not working in the Chittagong Division. As regards foodstuffs, other than foodgrains, an enquiry has been made from the Army Authorities and the result will be communicated to the House in due course.

RELEASE OF RAW BUILDING MATERIALS FOR CIVILIAN USE AT CHITTAGONG

418 ***Shaikh Rafiuddin Ahmad Siddique** Will the Secretary for Education Health and Lands be pleased to state

(a) if Government are aware that raw materials necessary for the construction of houses and their repairs from the forest area have been reserved for the military and that the civil people who absolutely depend on these materials for the construction of their huts and their repairs have now been absolutely stranded so much so that they are now unable to repair their huts and

(b) whether Government be pleased to issue necessary instructions to the civil and military authorities at Chittagong to release at least some percentage of the raw materials to the civil people to enable them to repair their huts and dwelling houses?

Mr J D Tyson The Honourable Member for Supply will answer this question on the appropriate date.

DELHI ELECTRIC SUPPLY AND TRACTION COMPANY

419 ***Mr K C Neogy** (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Delhi Electric Supply and Traction Company Limited is a company incorporated outside India? How long has this Company been operating in the Delhi Province and what is the area served by it?

(b) How many units of electricity did this Company use for traction purposes how many units did it sell to consumers in its area of supply during the past twelve months or so how many units out of its total supply did it generate from its own power station and how many units did the Company buy from the Delhi Central Electric Power Authority Limited?

(c) Is it a fact that the Delhi Electric Supply and Traction Company Limited has not increased the supply of current from its generating station to any considerable extent for a number of years and has been for some time for all practical purposes dependent upon the Government power station at present under the control of the Delhi Central Electric Power Authority Limited?

(d) Is it a fact that the Delhi Central Electric Power Authority Limited is a company sponsored by Government and works on a no profit basis?

(e) What is the price that the Delhi Electric Supply and Traction Company Limited pays per unit of electricity supplied by the Delhi Central Electric Power Authority Limited and what are the different rates at which the Delhi Electric Supply and Traction Company Limited sells electricity to its different classes of customers?

(f) Is it a fact that the Government have an option to purchase the Delhi Electric Supply and Traction Company Limited in February 1947 when their present licence expires provided a notice is served on the Company in February 1945? If so has the question of exercising the option been considered as yet and with what result?

(g) What is the amount that the Government will have to pay in case they decide to purchase this undertaking and to what extent will the purchase enable the Government to utilise the sterling balance held to the credit of India in England?

The Honourable Dr B R Ambedkar (a) Yes The Company's licence runs from the 2nd March 1905 The area of supply now includes

(i) the whole of the area in the jurisdiction of the Delhi Municipal Committee

(ii) the whole of the Delhi Civil Station Notified Area

(iii) the whole of the West Delhi Notified Area and

(iv) a tract of land in the jurisdiction of the Delhi District Board

(b) During war time it is not in the public interest to supply the information

(c) Yes The Company's generating plant is now used more or less as a stand by

(d) Yes

(e) A statement is laid on the table

(f) Yes The question is now under the consideration of the Chief Commissioner, Delhi

(g) Under the first proviso to sub-section (1) of section 7 of the Indian Electricity Act, 1910, the price to be paid for the property of the licensee, if the option of purchasing were exercised, would be its fair market value at the time of purchase as determined by arbitration. It is not possible to answer the second half of the question till the amount likely to be involved is known

Statement

The Delhi Electric Supply and Traction Co., Ltd., are charged at 60 anna per unit of electricity supplied in bulk by the Delhi Central Electric Power Authority Limited

Rates charged by the Delhi Electric Supply and Traction Co., Ltd.

Lighting and fans—Three annas per unit less 3 pies discount per unit for prompt payment of bills

Domestic power (Cooling, water heating, refrigerators, radiators and air conditioning) — One anna per unit nett

Battery charging—Two annas per unit less ten per cent discount for prompt payment of bills

Industrial—

A Consumers with connected load up to 75 KVA

Restricted hour supply—1 anna per unit less a discount of 1 anna per unit for prompt payment of bills

Unrestricted hour supply—Rates as for Restricted hour supply and in addition a charge of Rs. 5 per H.P. per month less ten per cent discount for prompt payment of bills

B Large Power Consumers.

Special rates are quoted

Mr. K. O. Neogy: Is the Honourable Member aware that a few years ago, the Delhi Municipal Committee applied for a licence for the purpose of enabling itself to supply electricity in the area concerned or at least part of it and that as a result of that application, an enquiry was held into the position of this company by a Committee over which perhaps Sir James Fitzpatrick presided or the Electrical Adviser to the Government of Bengal, presided? Is the Honourable Member in a position to give this House an idea about the comments made by this Committee or these individuals, in regard to the affairs of this company?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: If the Honourable Member will put down a specific question, I shall certainly be glad to give the information

Mr. K. O. Neogy: Has the Honourable Member tried to ascertain the total amount of profits earned by this company? Has the attention of the Honourable Member been drawn to a statement in a recent article in the *Hindustan Times* in which it has been stated that the total profits earned by the company was already about five times its capital?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: Yes, Sir, I have noticed

Mr. K. O. Neogy: Is the Honourable Member in a position to say whether that is a fact or not?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I cannot say anything about that now. If the Honourable Member wants information, he will give notice of a question

Mr. K. O. Neogy: With reference to part (b) May I know the proportion of units actually produced by this company to the units purchased by the company at cost price from the Government undertaking?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I have already answered that during war time, it is not in the public interest to give the information

Mr. K. O. Neogy: I know. Is the Honourable Member in a position to deny that it is a very small proportion of the units actually distributed by this company that is produced by it?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: That, I am afraid, will be circumventing the provisions of the Act which prohibits me from giving the information.

Mr. K. O. Neogy: I did not know that the Honourable Member was prevented even from giving the proportion. However, I give up that point. As regards the point that the matter is under consideration of the Chief Commissioner, having regard to the important policy involved do Government propose to direct the Chief Commissioner in regard to coming to any particular conclusion, or do the Government of India merely propose to carry out, or rather endorse, the decision of the Chief Commissioner in this behalf?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: The Government of India themselves are considering this matter.

Mr. K. O. Neogy: With regard to part (f), having regard to the shortness of time during which notice is to be served, if at all, will the Government come to a very quick decision in the matter? Will the Government be pleased to take this House into their confidence at the earliest possible opportunity in regard to this case?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I can assure my Honourable friend that Government will certainly come to its own conclusions before the time expires.

Mr. K. O. Neogy: Having regard to the fact that this Legislature is virtually in the position of a Provincial Legislature so far as Delhi Province is concerned, does the Honourable Member propose to let this House have an opportunity to consider and discuss this matter?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I shall bear the Honourable Member's suggestion in mind.

Mr. R. R. Gupta: Do the Government propose to increase the capacity of the electric power house situated in New Delhi under the Government control?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: That question does not arise. I cannot give an answer.

COTTON TEXTILES

420. *Mr. K. O. Neogy: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies be pleased to make a statement showing—

(i) the total quantity of cotton textiles that are expected to be manufactured in the cotton mills of India in the current year, as also in the next year,

(ii) the quantity out of the above figure which is likely to be taken up for Defence Services within the country, and the quantity that may have been earmarked for purposes of export, and

(iii) the details of the export quota for the different countries to be supplied, and the grounds on which the export quota has been agreed to by the Government of India in each case?

(b) Is any quota going to be fixed for consumption in the different Provinces? If so, how does it work per head of population in the case of each province, and how does it compare in each case with the pre-war standard of consumption of cotton textiles in the years immediately preceding the war? In the case of the provinces of Bengal and Assam, is the quota likely to be increased in view of the possibility of consumption of a comparatively large quantity of textiles by military and semi-military personnel employed in increasing numbers in these provinces in the shape of ready-made garments and otherwise? Is it a fact that Red Cross and hospital requirements in these Provinces are also to be met from the Provincial quota?

(c) Is it a fact that an appreciable quantity of cotton textiles has in recent times found its way out of the Provinces of Bengal and Assam through smuggling? If so, what steps do Government propose to take to ensure that the provincial quotas in the case of these two Provinces are definitely available for consumption within their borders only?

(d) Have Government any information regarding the gradual falling off in the production of cotton cloth by hand-loom in the Provinces of Bengal and Assam? Is it proposed to make up for this deficiency of supply, by granting an increased quota of the mill-made textiles, pending the restoration of the maximum production of the hand-loom industry?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) (i) The total production of cotton textiles in India in the current year will be about 6,300 million yards, and I am hopeful that, if all goes well, the figure may increase to about 6,500 million yards next year. Of this total production about 1,500 million yards is handloom production, and the rest mill production.

(ii) Not more than 900 million yards will be taken for Defence Services, and another 600 million yards for civil exports.

(iii) As a result of Japan's entry into the war the previous source of supply of the requirements of countries east and south of Suez has ceased, and for that reason the Government of India as part of their effort in aid of the United Nations undertook to help them as far as possible in meeting their minimum essential needs.

(b) I am not yet in a position to make a definite statement but will do so next Session if the Honourable Member asks me.

(c) I understand that the Provincial Governments concerned are seeing to it that Provincial supplies are not dissipated by smuggling.

(d) Government have no information regarding any falling off in the production of handloom cloth in the Provinces of Bengal and Assam, though our attention has been drawn to the shortage of yarn in these provinces.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: With regard to the Indian States, has the Honourable Member made sure that they do not encourage any smuggling?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I am afraid I cannot answer that question.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Is it a fact that smuggling has not only taken place into the different provinces of India but that cotton textiles from Bengal have found their way into Tibet and ultimately to China?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I have seen one or two reports about that but we have had no authentic information on the subject.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Have Government ascertained the reasons for the falling off of handloom woven cloth in Assam and Bengal?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I have no information as to whether it has been falling off.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: With regard to the export quota mentioned in part (iii) of clause (a) of the question, the Honourable Member stated that it had been decided to come to the help of the United Nations. Was this decision come to by the Government of India independently or under any suggestion from H M G?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: So far as I am aware, it was the decision of the Government of India. But surely in a matter like this H M G also make from time to time their views known to the Government of India and that was certainly taken into consideration. I may also add that one of the reasons which was behind the decision of the Government of India was that it would be suicidal, as a post-war policy, to close the export market in textiles altogether.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Is it a fact that the trade concerned does not at all think that this export market is likely to continue after the war because these countries are likely to revert to their original sources of supply?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: That is not correct, because this decision as to quota and quantum of export was taken after consulting the Textile Control Board.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: With regard to the different countries to whose help we have gone in this matter, did these countries approach the Government of India direct so that they might come to an independent conclusion in this matter without the intervention of H M G?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I am afraid that took place some years back and I must ask for notice of this question. But I am aware that some at least of those countries made representations from time to time and make them even now.

Mr. Mann Subedar: What steps have Government taken to see that quantities larger than the quota do not go out by way of direct exports or permitted or illicit exports from the Indian States?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: We have taken every possible precaution to see that quantities of cloth are not smuggled out by some of the coast lines of India.

Mr. Manu Subedar: What is the nature of those precautions?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: It will not be possible for me to state them now but all customs protections have been taken, and not only customs protections but other steps have been taken in order to ensure it, which I am not prepared to disclose.

Sir Vithal N. Chandavarkar: What about illicit export of cloth from the North West Frontier?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: We have taken steps with a view to see that there is no smuggling out through the land routes.

Babu Bajinath Bajoria: Has any representation been received from the Bengal Government to increase the quota of cotton textiles for Bengal?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: When I was last in Calcutta there was a representation that there was very great shortage of cloth in Calcutta. We took steps to send cloth to Calcutta, but I also heard that the dealers had plenty of cloth with them which they did not release at the time.

+421*.

CAPACITY, ETC OF HAJ PILGRIM SHIPS

422. *Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi: Will the Honourable Member for Commonwealth Relations be pleased to state

(a) the carrying capacity and the actual number of Haj pilgrims carried by the first, second and third steamers of the first batch of pilgrim ships, separately,

(b) The carrying capacity and the actual number of Haj pilgrims carried by the first, second and third steamers of the second batch of pilgrim ships, separately,

(c) the number of Cabin class berths reserved for or occupied by Government servants or other persons not being pilgrims or master or crew of the ship in each of the six pilgrim ships,

(d) the respective dates on which pilgrims were embarked on the first, second and third steamers of the first batch of pilgrim ships;

(e) the respective dates on which pilgrims were embarked on the first, second and the third steamers of the second batch of pilgrim ships, and

(f) whether Government will place on the table copies of name, roll and ship's manifest of all the six pilgrim ships?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: For reasons of security the information asked for cannot be disclosed.

EMBARKATION ARRANGEMENT FOR HAJ PILGRIMS AT KARACHI

423. *Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi: Will the Honourable Member for Commonwealth Relations be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to a Press statement issued by Khan Bahadur Haji Wajihuddin and published in the *Dawn*, dated the 20th October, 1944, regarding embarkation arrangement for Haj Pilgrims at Karachi,

(b) whether a copy of the telegram will be placed on the table of the House which Khan Bahadur Haji Wajihuddin sent to the Government from Karachi regarding the conduct of the Pilgrim Officer;

(c) how many of the first batch of pilgrims were left behind in Haji's Camp at Karachi.

(d) how many of the pilgrims died in Haji's Camp at Karachi during October, 1944, for reasons of (i) heart failure, (ii) insanitary conditions in the Camp and (iii) other causes,

(e) whether it is a fact that owing to inadequate arrangements in Haji's Camp at Karachi no water was available for the Hajis in the early morning.

+This question was withdrawn by the questioner.

and that many Hajis missed their morning prayers until after sunrise for want of water; and

(f) whether it is a fact that the building in Haji's Camp at Karachi primarily meant for first class pilgrims was occupied by the staff of the Government of India Haj Offices for office and residential purposes?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: (a) Yes.

(b) A copy is laid on the table

(c) Ten persons to whom tickets had been issued failed to embark

(d) Information is being collected

(e) There was water shortage, but I have no information about water not being available for early morning prayers

(f) No building is primarily meant for first class pilgrims

Copy of a telegram, dated the 4th October, 1944, from Khan Bahadur Hajj Waqihuddin to the Honourable Dr N B Khare, Member in charge of the Department of Commonwealth Relations

Since my telephone Honourable Banerjee and Dr Gore twenty ninth September found Saharanpur bogie load pilgrims from Bengal Bogie was detached from Calcutta Mail Reason load exceeded while lady pilgrims carried Lahore Noticed state uneasiness at Lahore None cared to assist despite repeated demands Immediately on arrival Karachi informed Yaqub Butt of difficulties uneasiness unhelping attitude of railways Visited Pilgrims four times on Monday Found unhelping and unsympathetic attitude of Yaqub Butt Steamer authorities and Executive Officers Last night offered our services to Yaqub Butt to issue tickets to Bengal pilgrims who arrived second October according Reservation cards Visited today Camp twice personally and twice by Maulana Mohd Saleem tickets issued today at fourteen hours for my party no date and time intimated for embarkation despite enquiries at 18/30 went to Keamari personally for purpose enquiring time date embarkation Yaqub Butt told me to come with party within one hour for embarkation whole party with luggage in six taxis arrived exactly 19/28 but admission at gates refused Yaqub Butt informed no assistance given Request institute enquiries immediately we suffered heavy shock and seek your guidance and assistance in this serious matter About one hundred other pilgrims ordered presence second October refused tickets Believe ample accommodation were available

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Salt: With regard to part (c), may I know why ten people were left out?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: For the last steamer of the first batch the shipping company had issued a hundred tickets to pilgrims of whom 84 embarked Of the remaining 16, six pilgrims did not present their reservation cards and collect their tickets, and a party of ten arrived too late to embark

RETURN OF BENGAL HAJ PILGRIMS FROM KARACHI

424. ***Sir Abdul Halim Ghaznavi:** Will the Honourable Member for Commonwealth Relations please state

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to the fact that 175 Haj pilgrims of Bengal had been compelled to return to Bengal from Karachi disappointed;

(b) whether Government propose to compensate these disappointed pilgrims; if not, why not,

(c) whether it is a fact that certain intending Haj pilgrims who were definitely asked to go on pilgrimage in the second batch were compelled to go in the first batch failing which their steamer fares were liable to be forfeited; and

(d) whether it is a fact that in consequence of this act of the Haj Officer some of them had to face unbearable difficulties and hardships, and, if so, what action Government propose to compensate the loss and inconvenience caused to such pilgrims?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: Information is being collected.

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Salt: In part (a) it is stated that 175 pilgrims were compelled to go back Why cannot that be replied to?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: When the information is received I will give it

Mr. Abdul Qalyum: When did the Honourable Member ask for the information?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: I shall require notice of that.

Mr. Abdul Qayyum: But surely the Honourable Member should know it

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: I do not remember the exact date on which the letter was addressed

LEVY OF TRANSPORT CHARGES ON HAJ PILGRIMS FOR VISIT TO MECCA, ARAFAT ETC.

425. *Sir Abdul Halim Ghusnavi: Will the Honourable Member for Commonwealth Relations please state

(a) whether it is a fact that Mecca, Arafat, Muzdalafa, Mina, etc., are quite neighbourly places which are ordinarily visited by the poorer section of the pilgrims on foot,

(b) whether it is a fact that for the first time in the history of Holy Haj Pilgrimage only this year every intending pilgrim was compelled to pay in advance at Karachi for transport charges to these places either by camel or by lorry without which steamer tickets were not issued,

(c) whether it is a fact that in the Hedjaz the value of a sterling pound is fixed at 40 Rials of Saudi Arabia and that offers of sterling pounds by certain pilgrims were refused and they were made to pay amounts in excess of the above rate,

(d) whether Government are prepared to refund the excess amount through the British Ambassador at Jeddah,

(e) whether it is a fact that Government notified that every pilgrim should take sufficient money to meet his expenses in the Hedjaz and in addition to that a deck passenger could take Rs 1,000 and a first class passenger Rs 2,000 for charity purposes there,

(f) whether it is a fact that certain deck passengers in Karachi were not allowed to take with them more than Rs 1,000 in all, and, if so, what action Government propose to take against the staff who were directly responsible for hardship and inconvenience caused to the pilgrims,

(g) whether it is a fact that the articles allowed to every pilgrim during voyage were inadequate and all suggestions for necessary additions were ignored, thereby causing considerable hardships to the pilgrims,

(h) if it is a fact that each pilgrim was allowed to take 600 bids, 500 cigarettes and 300 cigars but no matches for lighting the same,

(i) whether it is a fact that the Haj Officer appointed to look after the interests of the pilgrims was directly responsible for many of the discomforts, hardships, inconveniences and losses to the pilgrims, and

(j) whether Government propose to appoint a Senior Officer of the Department to investigate into these matters and submit recommendations to safeguard the interests of the pilgrims for the future?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: (a) Yes

(b) Yes

(c) The reply to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. As regards the second part, payments could not be received in sterling pound owing to restrictions on the export of gold. Payments had therefore to be made in rupees the exchange rate of which was higher

(d) No

(e) Pilgrims were no doubt advised to take sufficient money, but Rs 1,000 (in addition to 12 guineas) and Rs 2,000 (in addition to 15 guineas) were prescribed as the maximum that each deck or first class passenger respectively could carry

(f) Amounts in excess of the maximum prescribed were not allowed to be taken and no action is therefore necessary

(g) No, all special facilities warranted by the exceptional circumstances of the pilgrimage were provided

(h) Each passenger was allowed to carry six boxes of matches

(i) No

(j) No.

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait: With regard to the second part of (c), why were payments in sterling refused?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: At the instance of the Minister, Jeddah and H M G, Saudi dues and transport charges payable in the Hedjaz were collected in advance from pilgrims in Karachi in Indian currency. The same procedure was followed in other countries. The pilgrims represented that they should be collected at the prevailing rate of exchange between Rupee-Sovereign-Rial. The matter was referred to His Majesty's Minister, Jeddah and he was asked to obtain the decision of the Government of Saudi Arabia. He replied that he could not see any ground for approaching that Government since the suggested refund to Indian pilgrims would be unfair to pilgrims of the other countries who would naturally complain that preferential treatment was accorded to Indians. He therefore stated that there was not the slightest chance of that Government agreeing to the proposal.

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait: But why were payments made by some pilgrims in sterling refused?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: That was because of restrictions on the export of gold.

(b) WRITTEN ANSWERS

DELAY IN ISSUING INSTRUCTIONS FOR HAJ PILGRIMS

426. *Mr. Abdul Qayyum: Will the Honourable Member for Commonwealth Relations be pleased to state

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to a letter published on page 4 of the *Ittehad*, Patna, dated the 8th October, 1944, from a Haj Pilgrim who has been stranded in Karachi,

(b) if it is a fact that Government's instructions for pilgrims were not prepared immediately after Government's declaration of arrangement of sailings,

(c) if it is a fact that Instruction and Reservation Cards were not sent to a great majority of pilgrims in time, if so, why, and

(d) what the number of pilgrims was who arrived at Karachi without the Receipt and Reservation Cards, for first and second batches separately?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: (a) Yes

(b) Instructions were prepared as soon as possible after Government's general announcement that Haj sailings would take place. Copies of Instructions were sent along with the cards reserving passages to intending pilgrims.

(c) No

(d) Information is being collected

†427.

RICE MILLS AND GROUND NUT DECORTICATORS

428. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies be pleased to state

(a) how many rice-mills and groundnut decorticators, there are actually at work in each of the Provinces of British India,

(b) what arrangements Government have made with them to ensure timely hulling of paddy and decorticating groundnuts;

(c) what percentage of the price fixed for a bag of paddy of 164 pounds without gunny or a bag of groundnut of 164 pounds without gunny used to be charged before the war and in 1940, 1941, 1942, 1943 and 1944 is being charged by the mills concerned for their services;

(d) how Government propose to explain the inordinate rise in the charges allowed to these mills;

(e) whether it is not a fact that in areas where paddy and groundnut are liable to be compulsorily requisitioned and acquired and where price control prevails, all that these mills are expected to do is to take charge of the produce acquired by Government and also hand over the processed product to the specified wholesale dealers of the prescribed places or areas;

†This question was postponed to be answered on the 20th November, 1944.

(f) why, under such circumstances, such high margins of profits are allowed to the millers over and above their legitimate charges for their processing charges,

(g) whether Government have considered the advisability of requisitioning these mills and thus preventing them from exploiting as at present both the producers of foodgrains and their ultimate consumers, if so, why Government have so far failed to requisition them,

(h) whether Government are not aware of the growing discontent among the peasants producing paddy and groundnut, due to the treatment meted out to them, as compared to these millers, and

(i) whether Government propose to consider the advisability of extending their control to every aspect of production in food products, especially the rice and decorticating millers?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) It is not possible to give the exact number of rice mills and groundnut decorticators that may be at work at any given time in each province. The Marketing Report on Rice (1940) estimated the number of rice mills in the country at about 10,000 and the Report on the Marketing of Groundnuts (1912) disclosed the existence of approximately 1,450 decorticating establishments.

(b) The Government of India have made no direct arrangements with them.

(c), (d) and (f) Hulling and decorticating charges vary considerably in different parts of India. As regards paddy in 1938-39 the hulling cost ranged from Re 0-1-6 per maund to about Re 0-4-0 per maund and represented five to ten per cent of the cost of paddy.

These charges increased in 1940 with the increase in the prices of fuel, lubricants and spares. The latest information available for 1944 is that the proportionate cost of hulling remains much about the same as before the war.

(e) The precise terms and conditions under which rice mills operate in the different provinces are within the discretion of the Provincial Administrations concerned.

(g) This is a matter for the Provincial Governments.

(h) Does not arise.

(i) The question of Government control is under constant examination with reference to the exigencies of the situation and the interests of consumers, producers and general foodgrains production as a whole.

PURCHASE OF PADDY AT PENALTY PRICE BY GRAIN PURCHASING OFFICERS OF MADRAS PRESIDENCY

429. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to state:

(a) if it is not a fact that Grain Purchasing Officers in the Madras Presidency claim the right of compulsorily acquiring peasants' paddy at a prescribed low price, if that paddy is not already sold at or below the ceiling price to the local rice mill-owners before a date fixed by himself and made known only to the miller or millers and not to the peasants concerned,

(b) how much per bag of paddy of 164 pounds this margin is between this low price—supposed to be the penalty price—and the ceiling price, and what percentage of the ceiling price it comes to be,

(c) whether it is not true that when paddy is acquired at the low (penalty) rates by the Grain Purchasing Officers, the party that is benefitted is neither the ultimate consumer nor the paddy-grower but the miller who does nothing special to either of them to deserve such a windfall or unearned profit,

(d) whether Government are aware that such a diversion of the penalty margin or fine to an undeserving party is against the principle governing the utilisation of fines imposed on labour under the Payment of Wages Act,

(e) whether Government propose to consider the advisability of creating a special fund for the post-war reconstruction of the paddy-growers and groundnut producers from out of the proceeds of such penalties or fines imposed upon such peasants; and

(f) whether Government propose to order an enquiry with the assistance of suitable and representative non-official peasants into this whole question of relations between the paddy-growers and groundnut producers on the one hand and millers on the other, with a view to do justice to the producers and restrict, if not to prevent the profiteering by the millers?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: An enquiry has been made from the Madras Government and the information will be laid on the table of the House when received

CLOSING OF HAJ OFFICES ON EMBARKATION DAY

430. *Mr. H. M. Abdullah: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Commonwealth Relations be pleased to state if his attention has been drawn to an editorial of the *Adil*, Delhi, entitled "Musalmanon ke Shaar-i-Mashabi men khuh madakhilat"?

(b) What were the circumstances under which the Haj Office, the Haj Booking Office and the Port Haj Committee Offices were locked up on the day of departure of the first batch of steamers?

(c) What action has been taken against the officers responsible for closing down the Haj Offices? If none, why?

(d) What are the circumstances under which pilgrims in possession of valid pilgrim passes are not permitted to come out of the Dock area to see their friends or relatives after once entering the Dock areas?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: (a) Yes

(b) and (c) I understand that on the last day of the sailings after the bookings had closed, the staff were on duty at the embarkation shed where their presence was more necessary

(d) The dock area is a protected place. Entry into and exit from it are controlled by regulations under the Defence of India Rules

ENQUIRY OFFICE AT KARACHI HAJ CAMP

431. *Mr. H. M. Abdullah: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Commonwealth Relations be pleased to state if it is a fact that an enquiry office was opened at the Haj Camp, Karachi, in open air?

(b) Is it a fact that no arrangements for the delivery of telegrams and post were in existence in the Haj Camp?

(c) Is it a fact that all incoming post used to be placed at the Enquiry Office table uncare for?

(d) Is it a fact that no responsible person was put in charge of the Enquiry Office table?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: (a) Yes

(b) and (c) All telegrams and letters were placed on a table at a prominent place in the Enquiry Office in charge of the staff on duty from where pilgrims could take delivery of them. Names of payees of money orders were announced on the microphone. This is the best arrangement that could be made

(d) No

INDIA'S ART TREASURES IN THE UNITED KINGDOM

432. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Has the attention of the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands been drawn to the fact that a great many art treasures belonging to India are in public and private collection in the United Kingdom?

(b) Have Government considered the advisability of repurchasing these as one of the means of the settlement for the sterling balances accumulated in the United Kingdom?

(c) Do Government propose to ask His Majesty's Government to make a compulsory acquisition of all these for despatch to India? If so, will Government see that the prices paid are not very high, and will they instruct the High Commissioner to take the responsibility for refusing all items for which fancy prices are asked?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) It is probable that a number of articles of art of Indian origin are in collections in the United Kingdom.

(b) and (c) The answer to clause (b) and the first part of clause (c) are in the negative. The latter part of clause (c) does not arise.

CONSUMERS' COUNCIL.

433. *Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies please state the policy behind the constitution of a Consumers' Council?

(b) What is the basis of the selection of the constitution of Consumers' Council?

(c) How many meetings of the Consumers' Council have been held since its formation?

(d) What has been the cost to the Government of India of these meetings?

(e) What were the resolutions and suggestions in the Consumers' Council which have been given effect to by the Government?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) The Council was set up as an advisory body to keep Government informed of the types of consumer goods required by the public, on the working of price control measures and about the manner in which distribution and control arrangements could be improved.

(b) Prominent men and women were appointed to the Council to represent the views of the different classes of the consuming public in different parts of India.

(c) Two.

(d) Rs 5,746.

(e) Resolutions were passed at the first meeting recommending paper economy in Government Departments, an increase in staff for the enforcement of control orders, stiffer punishments for offences against control orders, wider publicity for control measures, provision of better facilities for lodging complaints against profiteers and the grant of all possible assistance to Indian industries in order to assist them to meet the demand for consumer goods. Whatever action was called for has been taken on all these resolutions.

At the second meeting resolutions were passed requesting Provincial Governments to introduce rationing schemes for kerosene and to provide quotas of stationery to principals of educational institutions. Action is being taken on these resolutions.

NON-RECOGNITION OF MEDICAL DEGREES OF ANDHRA UNIVERSITY BY GENERAL MEDICAL COUNCIL OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

434. *Mr. K. S. Gupta: (a) Is the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands aware of the fact that the medical graduates of the Andhra University were not permitted to sit for the preliminary M R C P (London) Examination held in India on the 17th March, 1944, on the mere ground that the medical degrees of the Andhra University were not recognizable by the General Medical Council of the United Kingdom?

(b) Have the Government of India received any communication on the above subject from the Andhra University, the old Boys' Association of the Andhra Medical College, Vizagapatam, and the Medical Council of India? If so, what action has been taken by them with regard to the above representations? If none, why?

(c) In view of the fact that the Government of India had once recognized the Andhra Medical Degrees in their Notification No 52-60/33-H, dated the 5th October, 1933, under Section 3 of the Indian Medical Degrees Act of 1916 and again recognized them in their Notification No F-48-16/39-H, dated the 4th May 1939 [amended by Notification No F A3-4/A1-H(c), dated the 17th July, 1941, under the Indian Medical Council Act of 1933], what additional advantages were conferred on the above medical graduates by the fresh recognition under the Indian Medical Council Act of 1933?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) Yes.

(b) The reply to the first part is in the affirmative. As regards the second part the Medical Council of India is competent to negotiate direct with the

General Medical Council for the recognition by that body of British Indian medical qualifications. The Medical Council of India has already taken up the matter with the General Medical Council

(c) The Indian Medical Degrees Act, 1916, and the Indian Medical Council Act, 1933, serve different purposes. The notification of the Government of India under the Indian Medical Degrees Act was to authorise the Andhra University to confer medical qualifications stating or implying that the holder of such qualifications is qualified to practise Western medical science. The recognition under the Indian Medical Council Act was to indicate that the qualifications recognised conform to that standard of higher education in medicine necessary to secure such recognition. I may add that without such recognition it would not have been possible for the Indian Medical Council to request the General Medical Council to recognise this degree.

RESTRICTIONS ON EXPORT, ETC., OF CARDAMOMS AND PEPPER.

435. *Sir F. E. James: Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state

- (a) if he is aware—
- (i) that present restrictions on the export of and trading in cardamoms and pepper have caused a sharp recession in prices, with resulting hardship to the growers of these products in South India,
- (ii) that cardamom and pepper are the only money crops possible in the climatic conditions of certain areas of the Western Ghats and their foothills,
- (iii) that in the case of cardamoms, since the restrictions referred to have been imposed, price levels have fallen by 60 to 70 per cent since 1943, and are now lower than before the war, and
- (iv) that as a result many growers are faced with acute distress, and those with little or no resources are abandoning their estates, and allowing them to revert to jungle?
- (b) if the Government of India propose to consider the advisability of relaxing the restrictions on export and internal trading, and of taking such other steps as may be necessary to alleviate the distress caused by present price levels?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I will answer first as regards cardamoms

- (a) (i) Government are aware that there has been a sharp fall in prices
 - (ii) Yes
 - (iii) Yes
 - (iv) Complaints to this effect have been received in respect of cardamoms and an inquiry has been made in the matter from the Government of Madras
 - (b) Yes. The matter is already under the consideration of Government.
- As regards pepper there has been no sharp fall in prices and there are no restrictions on internal movement. As regards export we have agreed to allow export to the full amount available and Food Department is making the necessary purchases by negotiation and tender from the Trade.

HAJ PILGRIMS

436. *Mr. Abdul Qayum: Will the Honourable Member for Commonwealth Relations please state

- (a) the latest figures as to how many Hedjaz pilgrims have so far arrived at the ports,
- (b) how many have actually secured passages,
- (c) how many are still waiting for their passages, and
- (d) whether steps have been taken to give timely warning to others who may not be able to get accommodation in ships not to proceed to the ports?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: (a) and (b) I am afraid this information cannot be given for security reasons.

- (c) None.

(d) Instructions issued by Government made it clear that no accommodation could be guaranteed for persons applying after the 15th of October. Such persons were also asked not to proceed to the port.

PAPER PERMITS TO NEWSPAPERS IN CENTRAL PROVINCES AND BERAR.

437. *Nawab Siddique Ali Khan: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies please state if permission in writing of the Central Government under the Paper Control Order, 1942, Clause 3(a), is necessary for the publication of any newspaper?

(b) How many applications from Central Provinces and Berar were granted under the above order?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) No. Permission is now necessary under clause 10(a) of the Paper Control (Economy) Order, 1944, for starting the publication of a new newspaper, provided it is proposed to print it on paper other than newsprint.

(b) No new newspaper was allowed under the Paper Control Order, 1942, to start publication in the Central Provinces and Berar. Two periodicals which had suspended publication were allowed to restart publication under the provisions of this Order.

REFUSAL OF PAPER PERMIT TO MR HASHMI OF NAGPUR FOR STARTING A MAGAZINE.

438. *Nawab Siddique Ali Khan: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies please state if it is a fact that Mr Shahidul Hashmi of Nagpur had applied on the 18th March, 1944, for the supply of paper to publish an Urdu magazine from Nagpur?

(b) Is it a fact that on the 18th August, 1944, Mr Hashmi was informed by the Government of India that, in view of the extremely acute supply position of paper, permission could not be granted to him to start the magazine?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) No, but Mr Shahidul Hashmi of Nagpur applied for permission to start a new Urdu magazine from Nagpur.

(b) The request was refused.

REFUSAL OF PAPER PERMIT TO MR HASHMI OF NAGPUR FOR STARTING A MAGAZINE

439. *Nawab Siddique Ali Khan: (a) Is the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies aware that there are only two Urdu newspapers *Al Farooq* and *Alburhan* in Central Provinces and Berar for about 6,00,000 Urdu knowing public (*vide* recent census report for Central Provinces and Berar)?

(b) Is the Honourable Member, in view of the fact that after the enforcement of the Paper Control Order permission was granted to start two Hindi papers in Nagpur, prepared to reconsider the application of Mr Hashmi?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) No.

(b) No permission to start new newspapers in Hindi from Nagpur was given. The Government of India is always prepared to consider reasonable requests.

SCARCITY OF KEROSENE IN RURAL AREAS

440. *Mr. K. S. Gupta: (a) Is the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies aware of the hardships that a villager in the rural areas is undergoing to secure an ounce of kerosene oil?

(b) Is Government aware that rationing of kerosene in rural areas is a total failure?

(c) Are the Government of India aware of the inadequate supply of kerosene to the villages and their increasing struggle to procure even a small quantity to illumine their homes?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) Yes.

(b) The internal distribution of the quotas allotted to Provinces has been left to Provincial Governments. The Government of India have no reason to believe that the rationing of kerosene in rural areas is a 'total failure'.

(c) In order to alleviate hardship, the Government of India have increased supplies during the winter months by about 10 per cent.

APPOINTMENT OF MR. JAMNADAS MEHTA AS INDIA'S HIGH COMMISSIONER WITH BURMA GOVERNMENT.

441. *Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Will the Honourable Member for Commonwealth Relations please state

(a) whether the news report that Mr Jamnadas Mehta has been appointed as High Commissioner for India with the Burma Government in India is true,

(b) whether it is true that he will be allowed to retain his seat in the Assembly when he has taken this office of profit under the crown, and

(c) under what law he is allowed to do that?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: (a) Mr Jamnadas Mehta has been appointed Representative of the Government of India with the Government of Burma

(b) Yes, if he so desires

(c) Under clause (c) of section 2 of the Indian Legislature (Prevention of Disqualification) Ordinance, 1942 (Ordinance LXII of 1942), the Central Government has certified the Office of the Representative of the Government of India with the Government of Burma to be an office created for a purpose connected with the prosecution of the war

PROHIBITION OF DOWNWARD JOURNEYS IN ELECTRIC LIFTS OF THE COUNCIL HOUSE

442. *Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam: Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state

(a) whether it is a fact that Members of the Central Legislature are prohibited from making use of the downward journey of lifts (Electric) installed in the various sectors of the Council House,

(b) whether it is a fact that the staff of the Central Public Works Department in spite of the notice prohibiting the use of electric lifts for downward journey do use it,

(c) if the replies to (a) and (b) or any of them be in the affirmative, the extent of economy achieved during the past for running these lifts without passengers, and

(d) if the replies to (a) and (b) or any of them be in the negative, the correct fact and the reasons for differential treatment?

The Honourable Dr. B. B. Ambedkar: (a) As stated in the notice exhibited in lifts officers are requested to avoid the use of lifts except for going up more than one floor at a time. A copy of the notice is laid on the table. There are no specific orders of prohibition, and the notice makes the request only to the officers of Government

(b) No such cases have been brought to notice

(c) The saving occurs by reason of lifts not being summoned for downward journeys. It is impossible to estimate the amount of saving effected by the request not to use lifts for downward journey

(d) The facts have been stated. As the number of journeys by lift likely to be made by members was few, it was not thought necessary to address the request also to them

By Order of H. C. Prvor, Esquire, Secretary, Government of India Department of Labour.
USE OF LIFTS.

1 It is necessary to economise as much as possible in the use of lifts. If economy is not secured it will probably be necessary to close down all lifts

2 Officers are requested to avoid the use of lifts except for going up more than one floor at a time. Lifts can however, be summoned when required for any special purpose

3 Bells on the first floor and second floor have been disconnected

4 Lifts will not be available after 6 p.m.

DETERIORATION OF FOODGRAINS STOCKED IN SINGAPORE BOTANICAL GARDEN.

443. *Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya: (a) Is the Honourable the Food Member aware of the fact that huge quantity of foodgrains stocked in the Singapore Botanical Garden had become soiled and unfit for consumption? If so, will the Honourable Member be pleased to make a statement regarding the following:

(i) what was the tonnage of the whole foodgrain stocked in the Botanical Garden and how much was rice, wheat, maize, and millet,

(ii) under whose charge was it kept and how it was allowed to be soiled so badly,

(iii) what was the price of the whole stock, and

(iv) was any officer responsible for this sort of negligence and loss prosecuted and punished?

(b) Is the Honourable Member aware of the fact that the whole stock of foodgrains was used for levelling the Pyne park in Howrah? By whose order was this stock removed for the aforesaid purpose? Did the Howrah Municipality pay anything for the soiled foodgrains used for the purpose?

(c) Who was the purchasing agent? How long was the whole stock allowed to remain there and why was not this stock kept in godowns, and if godowns were not available why was it not placed under a shed constructed there even for temporary use? Why was it not distributed when it was found impossible to find shelter?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a), (b) and (c) Out of one hundred and twenty thousand tons which passed through the depot 3,000 tons or two and a half per cent had to be destroyed. Some of this grain was defective when placed in the depot and some was affected by damp and insects while there. The grain was properly stacked and every effort was made to avoid deterioration, but grain stored in such conditions in the climate of Bengal must inevitably suffer damage. It had to be so stored as the volume of grain arriving in Calcutta was greater than the storage accommodation available to the Provincial Government, and immediate distribution was impossible. The depot was opened in December, 1943 and closed in August, 1944. The grain which had to be destroyed was placed in compost pits to be used for manure. So far as I am aware the grain was not used for the purpose suggested in part (b) of the question but I have made further enquiries to which I have not yet received a reply and the information will be placed on the table of the House in due course.

BAD QUALITY OF RICE DISTRIBUTED THROUGH RATION SHOPS IN CALCUTTA

444. *Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya: (a) Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to state if soiled foodgrain specially rice and wheat had been thrown into pits in Calcutta in August last? If so, will the Honourable Member be pleased to make a statement on the matter?

(b) Has the Honourable Member come to learn that fine quality of rice stacked in godowns is substituted by bad and coarse quality of rice which is distributed through Government and ration shops in Calcutta? Is he acquainted with general complaints regarding supply of bad quality of rice to consumers not only in Calcutta but in mofussil as well? Has the Honourable Member any scheme to improve the situation in Bengal regarding the quality of rice and the classification of rice?

(c) Is the Honourable Member aware of the fact that where there is rationing, fine, medium and coarse quality of rice is sold for Rs 16-4 per maund? Will the Honourable Member be pleased to reduce the price according to the quality of rice, and will the Honourable Member be pleased to see that the distributors are supplied with rice without being adulterated with stone chips, stone dusts and street dusts to keep up the weight?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) The Honourable Member is referred to the reply given to his question No 443 today.

(b) No case of substitution of fine quality rice by bad rice in godowns has been brought to my notice, but I am aware of complaints regarding quality. The Government of India have already pressed upon Provincial Governments, the necessity to take adequate steps to ensure good quality of rationed foodgrains.

(c) The answer to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. The Government of India have already suggested the classification of rice into different grades to the Government of Bengal and their reply is still awaited.

SETTING UP OF CO-OPERATIVE STORES IN BENGAL.

445. *Mr. Amarendra Nath Chatteropadhyaya: (a) Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to state whether he has encouraged co-operative system of distribution in Bengal in order to curb profiteering through black market? If so, how many such Co-operative Stores have been set up district by district in Bengal?

(b) Is it under contemplation that a Co-operative Producers and Co-operative Distributors Society will be set up ere long? Is not the Honourable Member aware that the normal trade channels had proved themselves to be profiteering concerns during the famine season in Bengal and in all Provinces as well?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) The answer to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. Information regarding the number and location of Co-operative Stores in the Districts of Bengal is not readily available.

(b) The Bengal Government have under active consideration proposals for the greater use of Co-operative Societies.

INDIAN STUDENTS STRANDED IN ENGLAND, OWING TO NON-AVAILABILITY OF PASSAGE FACILITIES.

446. *Mr. K. C. Neogy: Will the Honourable the Commerce Member be pleased to state

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to a Reuter's message from London, dated August 26, 1944, that a large number of Indian students who completed their studies long ago are unable to return to India owing to non-availability of passage facilities,

(b) whether he is aware that a large number of these students have qualified as first-class engineers and technicians and that their return to India now would assist the war effort as well as the plans for post-war development,

(c) whether he would take any steps to urge the British Ministry of Transport to grant the students priority in allotment of passages, and

(d) whether the High Commissioner has been in communication with Government in this matter?

The Honourable Sir M. Arisul Huque: This question relates to the Defence Department and will be answered by the War Secretary.

LOSS OF FOODGRAINS DUE TO DETERIORATION IN BENGAL.

447. *Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta: Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to state the total loss of all foodgrains both in storage and transit including loss due to deterioration and decomposition in terms of quantity and in monetary terms during each of the years 1940-41, 1941-42, 1942-43, 1943-44 and 1944-45 up to October in Bengal?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: No data in terms of volume or money exist which enable me to give a specific answer to the Honourable Member's question nor is it possible to obtain the information and assess it.

INFLUENCE OF ARMY PURCHASES ON FOOD SITUATION IN BENGAL.

448. *Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta: (a) Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to state whether the recommendation of the Gregory Committee to investigate the impact and influence on the food situation of the presence of overseas forces has been implemented so far as Bengal is concerned?

(b) Is the Honourable Member aware that the price of all foodstuffs other than foodgrains has increased to the extent of 100 percent to 200 percent over the price which prevailed during the Bengal famine of 1943?

(c) What are the categorical reasons for that increase?

(d) To what extent has the increase in price been influenced by army purchases?

(e) Has any step been taken or is proposed to be taken to safeguard the position of the civil population in this behalf?

(f) Have the Government come to any decision as regards remedies for the increase in the price of foodstuffs in Bengal?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) and (c). The Foodgrains Policy Committee drew the attention of the Military authorities, as well as the Food Department, to a matter which was already engaging the attention of Government. Prices have risen because of increased local demand combined with difficulties of movement. The military authorities have given their fullest co-operation to the Civil Administration in reducing the effect of the presence of additional troops in Bengal on available supplies of foodstuffs by taking their own measures to produce what they need.

(b), (d), (e) and (f). The Honourable Member is referred to the reply given to starred question No. 49 by Mr. K. C. Neogy on 2nd November 1944.

RULES FOR PROCUREMENT OF FOODSTUFFS FOR CIVIL REQUIREMENTS.

449. *Mr. T. S. Avinashlingam Chettiar: Will the Honourable the Food Member please state

(a) whether the rules for the procurement of foodstuffs for civil requirements are made by the Provinces or by the centre;

(b) whether complaints have reached him from the Provinces that these rules have been applied indiscriminately on ryots who have had good crops and on others who had not crops owing to want of water in the wells and the failure of rain,

(c) whether he is aware that this is due to want of proper statistics in the villages; and

(d) whether Government have any proposals to improve these statistics?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) By the provinces

(b) No

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Government are aware of the need to improve statistics. In permanently settled areas steps are being taken to obtain correct acreage statistics by field enumeration. Experimental schemes have been carried out by the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research to determine the yield of wheat in the Punjab and U. P. and to check other methods in force. Random sample surveys have been tried in Bengal and Bihar with considerable success.

FIXATION OF PRICES OF FOODGRAINS.

450. *Mr. T. S. Avinashlingam Chettiar: Will the Honourable the Food Member please state:

(a) for what foodgrains prices are fixed by the Centre and for what by the Provinces;

(b) the basis of this division, and

(c) the factors which Government take into consideration while fixing these prices?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a), (b) and (c). The prices of the principal foodgrains in the primary wholesale markets are fixed by the Provinces in consultation with the Government of India. In reaching its decisions the Government of India is advised by the Price Advisory Committee, and takes into consideration:

(i) the maintenance of production, involving a fair price to the producer;

(ii) the cost to the consumer;

(iii) the size of the crop;

(iv) current market prices;

(v) the general price level of other commodities; and

(vi) price levels in neighbouring regions.

ANTI-EROSION MEASURES FOR SIND AND OTHER PROVINCES.

451. *Mr. Lalchand Navsarl: (a) In taking effective anti-erosion measures for the future well-being of India, has the attention of the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands been drawn to the constant recurrence of such happenings on the Indus in the portion which runs through the Sind Province and which causes immense loss and damage to crops and affect the food products not only of Sind but even of other provinces deficient in food? If so, what proposals has he on the subject? Have any experts been engaged or are proposed to be engaged to meet the situation?

(b) Does the Honourable Member propose to take this matter in the plan for the agricultural development of the country as a whole? If not, why not?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) and (b). Government are aware that erosion is taking place in many areas. The Policy Committee on Agriculture recommended the setting up of a Land Utilisation Board and a committee is being appointed to advise as to the lines on which the Board should be organised and the functions it should perform. In the meantime Government are also considering the question of the appointment of an anti-erosion officer.

POSTPONED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(Postponed from 10th November, 1944)

TOUR OF INDIAN SCIENTISTS IN UNITED KINGDOM AND AMERICA.

224. *Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: (a) Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please lay on the table a programme of the tour and visits of the deputation of scientists to the United Kingdom and the United States of America?

(b) How long will the tour last?

(c) Will these scientists be given an opportunity to order for Indian Laboratories some of the latest instruments prepared during the war?

(d) Has the Government of India assured that these scientists will cover among themselves all important branches of science?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) The detailed programmes of the tours are being drawn up in the United Kingdom and the United States of America in consultation with the visiting scientists. Copies are not available in India.

(b) The scientists are expected to spend about 6 weeks in the United Kingdom and about the same period in the United States of America.

(c) The scientists will have opportunities of establishing contacts with scientists and scientific instrument makers and of ordering laboratory equipment if they have been authorised to do so by any laboratory in India. Government have no information that they have been so authorised.

(d) The party is a small one and could not be expected to cover the whole field of scientific research. The subjects in which the nine gentlemen to whom His Majesty's Government extended an invitation may be considered to have specialised include medicine, especially Physiology, Gynaecology and medical education. Cotton Industry. Industrial Chemistry. Physical Chemistry. Radio Research. Astro Physics. Colloids and Soil Chemistry. general agricultural and Veterinary research on the organisational side.

WORK OF POST-WAR RECONSTRUCTION COMMITTEES APPOINTED BY COMMERCE DEPARTMENT.

225. *Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: (a) Will the Honourable the Commerce Member please lay on the table of the House a full statement giving a summary of the work done by various committees appointed by his Department in connection with post-war reconstruction?

(b) What would be the tariff policy of the Government of India after the war?

The Honourable Sir M. Asif Ali Khan: (a) A statement is being prepared and will be laid on the table of the House when ready.

(b) Government's post-war tariff policy is at present under consideration.

AMENDMENT TO STANDING ORDERS.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Mr. Essak Saif wishes to move for leave to amend the Standing Orders of the Legislative Assembly by adding to them a Standing Order in the following manner:

"A Standing Committee shall be constituted separately for every department of the Government of India to advise on the activities of the department concerned. These Committees shall be constituted from among the members of the Legislative Assembly together

[Mr. President]

with such members of the Council of State as that House may determine. The mode of constitution of these Committees, their strength, the duration of these Committees and whether the membership shall be confined to a particular class of members (i.e., official, non-official, elected or nominated) shall, from time to time, be determined by the Legislative Assembly on motions made by Government Members for the constitution of such Committees."

I would like to know if the Honourable Member has leave of the House to move this motion.

Several Honourable Members: No objection.

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Salt (West Coast and Nilgiris: Muhammadan):

Sir, I move

"That the draft amendment to the Standing Orders be referred to a Select Committee."

Sir, I want briefly to explain.

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed (Leader of the House): No speeches are to be made at this stage

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Salt: With regard to that, the ruling is that no speeches are allowed at the time of asking for leave. I do not know whether there is any ruling which prevents a Member from speaking at this stage, but the ruling that I have here at page 1011, Vol V, 1935 . . .

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: No speech

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Salt: Not that I am very anxious to speak

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) If the Honourable Member wishes to speak, I should like to know if there is any Rule or Standing Order which stands in the way of his making a speech at this stage

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: The ruling given in 1935 was to the effect that no speeches were to be made whether at the time of leave or after that.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) The Honourable Member wanted in that case leave to amend the Standing Order and it is only at that stage that no speech is allowed

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: There is nothing further to be done

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) It is a motion and he wants to speak in support of the motion

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: I am not opposing reference to a Select Committee. All I wanted to make perfectly clear was that we oppose the amendment

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim). The Honourable Member may have something to say in support of his motion?

Dr. P. N. Banerjee (Calcutta Suburbs: Non-Muhammadan Urban): He must make out a *prima facie* case in favour of it

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: So far as Government position is concerned, I want to make it perfectly clear that we do not oppose reference to a Select Committee, but we certainly oppose the amendment

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Salt: Sir, I would like briefly to explain the amendment that I want to move, because so many Members have been asking what it is about

So far as I know, there is no provision in our Standing Orders for constituting Standing Committees for the various departments. It is all done under a Notification of the Home Department. It is only by the kindness of the Home Department that this House is allowed to have these committees. So, I want this House to have the power to form the committees under our own Standing Orders. That is one object. The other is that the House should also have the right to say whether the membership of these committees shall be confined to a particular class of Members of the House alone. There is a ruling on this question—and it has been reiterated in 'A Selection from the Decisions of the Chair'—*vide* paragraph 253 on pages 170-171—that under the Notification of the Home Department under which these committees are being formed, this House has got no power, even if the House wants unanimously, to restrict the membership to a particular section of the House. Last Session, Sir, I asked

for your guidance and you suggested that the only way to do it was to amend the Standing Orders, so that the House may have the power. These are the two objects of my motion, which I commend to the acceptance of the House.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Motion moved:

"That the draft amendment to the Standing Orders be referred to a Select Committee."

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: I am not going to make any speech but as I have said before I want to make it perfectly clear to the House that we are opposed to this amendment and we shall try our level best to secure a recommendation from the Select Committee that this motion be not proceeded with.

Mr. T. B. Avinashlingam Chettiar (Salem and Coimbatore *cum* North Arcot: Non-Muhammadian Rural). I was not prepared for the statement made by the Leader of the House today. We have many surprises in store and this is one of them. As the Government have themselves been moving every year for Committees to be elected by this House, attached to the various departments, I thought that a statutory provision like this would be liked. But I see the Government would like to choose the departments for which they would have Committees. Even an innocent measure like this is being opposed, and having in view the present sort of Government that is going on in this country—absolutely irresponsible and unresponsive—I thought the Government would take the public into confidence at least in this measure and that they would like to place some important subjects in the departments before some Committees. But what do we find? We find that they are not prepared to place it not only before the House but also before Committees of this House. Today the greater portion of this country is ruled under Section 93. Similar to the Central Government today most of the Provinces are ruled by Governors and their Advisers, and in these circumstances the influence of the Central Government upon the Provinces is much more than it was ever before, and even in the few places where any nominal form of elected representatives are carrying on as in Sind, it is virtually the Governor that rules. The influence of the Central Government is felt much more than it was ever before and today it is more necessary than at any other time that Committees, at least should be set up for every department in which Members concerned can put forward what they have to say to the Members of the Committee.

We have been on these Committees all these years. I have myself experienced two of these Committees. I have been in the Standing Finance Committee for many years and I have been in the Commerce Committee and my experience was that the things brought forward before us in these Committees are very little. We have seen discussions in this House for the election of the Standing Finance Committee. Suggestions have been put forward by the various Members of this House that the scope of the Committee should be enlarged, that many more things should be brought before the Committee and the Committee should be taken into the confidence of the Finance Member and the Department concerned. But to all these representations, till today, we have seen no satisfactory replies.

Sir James Grigg, when he was here, made suggestions about an Estimates Committee, but that fell through after he went away and to this day we have yet to receive suggestions about the reconstitution of the Standing Finance Committee. It is all done in the old way. In the Commerce Committee the subjects that were brought before us were of a most trivial character. Matters of small legislation might be brought before us. Matters of importance will never and have never been brought before these Committees. And I ask you, why? I see only one reason, and the one reason is that the Government and the Members of the Government as they are constituted are well aware that this Government is run not in the interests of the people of this country but in the interests of the alien rulers under whom they take orders. You will have seen in the press reports about the copy of Mr. Phillips' letter to President

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: I submit that this is irrelevant.

Mr. T. S. Avinashlingam Chettiar: If you will hear me further you will then hear the relevancy of my remarks.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim). I missed the point.

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: Reference to Mr. Phillips' letter.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh (Bombay City. Non-Muhammedan Urban): That is by way of illustration

Mr. T. S. Avinashlingam Chettiar: Even in matters of little detail the Government of India . . .

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member must not refer to these matters

Mr. T. S. Avinashlingam Chettiar: I do not want to quote this letter. It is not necessary. This is the conclusion we have come to after many years.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) What is the conclusion?

Mr. T. S. Avinashlingam Chettiar: The conclusion we have come to is that this Government is dictated to even in the smallest detail by the Government of Great Britain

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) A very old complaint!

Mr. T. S. Avinashlingam Chettiar: Oh, yes and that is the only reason that this Government have to object to even innocent measures like this.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) I think that on this motion the Honourable Member need not go into all these things

Mr. T. S. Avinashlingam Chettiar: That is the only reason that they can have to object to innocent measure like this. I wholeheartedly support this motion

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: I rise to give my wholehearted support to this motion. Time and again have I urged that the composition of many of the Committees was unsatisfactory and I have also urged again and again that the functions allotted to many of the Committees of this House were not what they should be. Very unimportant functions are often assigned to these Committees and the more important functions are kept away from them. It is therefore desirable that this Legislative Assembly should frame its own rules with regard to the composition of every departmental Committee and with regard to the functions which should be assigned to it. Then, again, I must say that certain sections of the House predominate on these Committees. I will give you an instance. If you take the Standing Finance Committee, you find that the Committee is packed in such a way that the independent Members thereon can have very little say in regard to matters put before them for their deliberation. The Members selected for each Committee as representatives of certain sections of the House depend entirely on the will of the Member in charge. This is a very unsatisfactory state of things, and the time has come when the Assembly should decide as to the composition of every Committee and as to the functions which should be assigned to each one of these Committees.

Mr. Abdul Qayyum (North-West Frontier Province. General) I had no desire to intervene in this debate but the remarks which fell from the Leader of the House have prompted me to say something. The attitude of the Honourable the Leader of the House to this amendment,—which proposes to add one more Standing Order to the existing Standing Orders, is very strange indeed. Before a Select Committee of the House has had time to go into the matter and discuss all the pros and cons relating to this particular amendment, he has felt the necessity of getting up in the House and saying that he is going to oppose it whatever happens. By doing so the Honourable the Leader of the House was acting very much like the gentleman whom his Department, the Broadcasting Department, is never tired of abusing in season and out of season. His attitude was really a typical Fascist attitude.

Sir, the Government of India, as we all know, is an irresponsible body. They would not listen to the country-wide demand that there should be a National Government in this country responsible to the people of the land. That being the case, even in a small matter like the composition of Committees,

Government of India is not prepared to accept the verdict of the House, they are not prepared to listen to the advice which is to be tendered to them by the elected Members who represent the people of this country, and they insist that the present practice should be retained whereby even in a Standing Committee they can have their nominees to advise them.

It is a ridiculous situation indeed that people who do not represent anybody, that people who have got absolutely no voice in this country, people who are merely the nominees of the Government of India and are kept here simply to vote for them in the manner they are ordered to do, in spite of their conscience, in spite of what may be passing in their mind,—it is really ridiculous indeed that such people should be brought into committees to advise the Government of India, and that is why the Government of India insist that the present position should be retained. You are not even prepared to listen to advice

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: I never said that we will not be prepared to listen to the advice tendered in the Select Committee. We are quite open to conviction but we, at the same time, hope that the other members of the Select Committee will also be open to conviction.

Mr. Abdul Qayyum: This is exactly the position which I am going to oppose. After all what is the advice which the Nominated Members, if they are members of these committees, are likely to give to the Government or to the various departments of the Government? Therefore it should be left to the House to decide that in important committees which have to advise the various Departments of the Government of India, the decision should be left entirely to the elected Members of the House, and that the nominated Members should be entirely excluded. But the language of the Standing Order which has been proposed is not very rigid: There is scope left

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdul Rahim): Is the Honourable Member aware that the Governor General can frame a rule which can nullify any Standing Order?

Mr. Abdul Qayyum: I know that the Governor General is all-powerful but, at the same time, we are bent upon expressing our opinion and carrying it on the floor of the House, and we will leave it to the Governor General to ride rough-shod over our opinions, if he is so minded. At the same time, as I was suggesting, the language of this Standing Order is not so rigid indeed. We know that there are certain interests like Labour interests and certain minority interests in this House and the discretion will be still there for the elected Members of the House to see that those interests do have a voice in these committees. But as far as other nominated Members,—who are here merely to register the decrees of the Government, are concerned, it is the desire of this side of the House, it is the desire of the majority, I may say even the unanimous desire, of the elected Members of this House to see that such Members are excluded from the committees which are going to be set up to advise various Departments of the Government of India.

Rao Bahadur N. Siva Raj (Nominated Non-Official): Mr. President, if I rise to speak at all, it is only to nip the mischief in the bud. My friend, Mr. Avinashilingam Chettiar, suggested that this was a very innocent motion. I personally feel, and from the point of view of the interests I seek to represent, that it is not merely a mischievous motion but also a motion which insinuates against people like me. Whether my friends like it or not, whether they call themselves elected or otherwise, whether they belong to the Congress or the Muslim League, the fact remains that the House today is so composed that they must come in along with others like me to compose this House and it is not my fault that I am here to represent my community by the process of nomination. How many members sitting on the Congress Benches opposite, who say that they represent cent. per cent. of the elected Members of the House, ever choose to think of the fact that they themselves have not chosen to elect a member of the Depressed Classes to come to the Legislature? What chance is there, unless it is by nomination, that my people can ever get represented here? That being so, and it is necessarily rightly so, provision for nomination

[Rao Bahadur N Siva Raj.]

has been made for the representation of interests like ours. Actually we have already made a complaint against the method of nomination that was resorted to by the Government of India. We always thought and we still think (it is also the recommendation of the Montagu-Chelmsford Report) that nomination ought to be resorted to for the purpose of securing representation of interests for which no provision has been made by the process of election or to seek to redress or make adequate representation of elements possible, which otherwise is inadequate. For the way it has been done so far by the Government is such as to give increased representation to people who are already here, like the Muhammadans, Sikhs and others, thus to shut out the representation of the Scheduled Castes except to the extent of giving them a token representation by nominating a member or two at the most. That is the position.

Apart from the fact that I consider the motion insulting I must protest against the insinuation that lies behind, *viz*, the position of the nominated Members with reference to the formation of the Standing Committees. I therefore want to oppose this motion at its very inception.

Mr. K. C. Neogy (Dacca Division Non-Muhammadan Rural) Sir, I venture to think that I have a sort of special claim to participate in this discussion. It may not be known to most of the Honourable Members of this House that the constitution of Advisory Committees attached to the different departments of the Government of India came up for consideration in the first Legislative Assembly at my instance. I had the honour of moving a Resolution in the Legislative Assembly on the 19th January, 1922, recommending the appointment of Standing Committees to be elected by the Members of the Legislature and to be associated with the Departments of the Government of India. I based that resolution on certain recommendations of the Joint Parliamentary Committee, which again was supported by certain observations made by the famous Montagu-Chelmsford Report. On that occasion the Government of India was opposed to the constitution of these Committees and the Resolution had to be pressed to a division and it was carried by a large majority. I am afraid I have thus been responsible for not a little of the agony that I find is being caused to the Government in their effort to dodge these committees and the agony which is felt by the non-official Members who are members of these Committees in trying to do a little more useful work than they are permitted to do. I do not want to take the House through all the various observations made by the Joint Parliamentary Committee on this subject or the observations made in the Montagu-Chelmsford Report. But then I should like to point out that it was definitely intended that the Members who would be associated with the different administrative departments of the Government of India would be consulted on all important matters of policy and on all new questions that may arise from time to time. The recommendation with regard to similar committees in the case of the Provincial Legislatures went a little further than that. But then the authorities to whom I have referred were a little cautious in referring to the committees of the Central Legislature. They said, having regard to the distances involved, these committees might not be summoned at very frequent intervals. And then, again, having regard to the character of the Central Government, the functions proposed for these committees would not also be of the very same character as those of the committees of the Provincial Legislature. But subject to these considerations the Montagu-Chelmsford Report said

"There should be no difficulty ordinarily in obtaining their views on important new projects, whether legislative or administrative."

I want to ask those Honourable Members who have served on these committees to say whether this expectation of the Montagu-Chelmsford Report has been fulfilled. I was a member of one or two of these committees in the olden days, and it is because of the utter futility of membership of such committees that I have not consented to stand for election to any of these committees of late. I have every sympathy with my Honourable friend, Mr. Essak Sait, in the proposed amendment that he has put forward, because the time has arrived

when we should try to place these committees on a more or less statutory footing and assign proper duties to them, subject, of course, to some of the considerations which the Joint Parliamentary Committee mentioned, but then, subject only to the minimum possible safeguards, I do think that these committees should be allowed to play their part in advising the departments concerned in the manner in which they were expected to do by the Joint Parliamentary Committee and in the Montagu-Chelmsford Report

Some Honourable Members: The question may now be put

Mr. N. M. Joshi (Nominated Non-Official): May I say a word or two? It seems that there are some Members who by framing this Standing Order want to exclude the nominated Members from some of the committees. That seems to be one of the objects of this motion

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: Not necessarily.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Personally as a nominated Member, I am not prepared to part with any of the privileges which belong to a Member of this Legislature, and I do not think that any Select Committee of this House will deprive nominated Members of their privileges. So far as dissatisfaction with some of the advisory committees is concerned, I share the dissatisfaction as regards the working of these committees, along with all Members. These committees are not treated properly by the various Departments of the Government of India. They are treated as a sort of plaything. They call one or two meetings in the whole year, and the agenda placed before these committees is also in my judgment, if I may say so, very trivial. But I would like to ask the House how they can secure the object by this amendment. You propose to form committees by your own standing orders to advise the Government, will the Government seek your advice? I do not know of any section of the constitution by which a committee of this House can force its advice upon Government; and I therefore feel that if the Government is opposed to this standing order the appointment of these committees will not serve its purpose.

Sir Syed Raza Ali (Cities of the United Provinces Muhammadan Urban): Why should the Government be opposed?

Mr. N. M. Joshi: As regards the function of these committees, I myself have said several times in the Legislature that if the Government insists upon the proceedings of these committees being confidential, the House should refuse to appoint its representatives on these committees. When the Legislature should appoint its Members for a committee which functions as a general rule confidentially weakens the Legislature. The Legislature does not know how its representatives do their work on the various committees, and unfortunately on account of the Members being on various committees an impression is created that the Government of India have consulted the committees. The Government of India will not tell the House whether the proposals on which they have consulted the committees were approved by the committee or not. The House does not even know whether the proposals were approved or not but the Government of India can always say that they have consulted the committees. I feel this fact itself weakens the control of the Legislature over the executive Government, and I have several times suggested to the House that if the Government insists upon the proceedings of these committees being confidential, the House should refuse to elect its Members on these committees.

There is one more question. Some people expressed dissatisfaction with these committees on account of their composition. My Honourable friend Dr. Banerjee did so. I do not see why Dr. Banerjee should throw the blame of the weakness of the elected Members upon the nominated Members. This House consists of 140 Members, out of whom only 89 are nominated. 101 are elected. (*An Honourable Member:* "Including the Europeans.") Including Europeans—the Europeans are 11 or 10. (*An Honourable Member:* "9.") In a House of 140, then, you can exclude 48 and you have got 92. If, now, 92 Members remain present and do their duty honestly, then they need not complain about the nominated Members at all. They have got a clear majority. So long as

[Mr. N. M. Joshi.]

the committees are elected on proportional representation, you have no right to complain. If you are complaining, you should have a complaint against the elected Members. You should expose those elected Members who do not do their duty or who are unwilling to do so. If there are 92 elected Members in this House and only 48 Members against them, if the elected Members complain that their voice is not heard, it is their fault. I would therefore suggest to my Honourable friend Dr. Banerjee that they should combine in the first place for elections. They do not. If they combine, 92 Members can certainly get a majority of two-thirds in any committee. If they do not combine, it is their fault. Therefore let them first learn to combine and do their duty honestly. If the Members do not attend the Legislature it is their fault. I therefore suggest that the elected Members should have some more introspection and try to find out where the weakness and the fault lies. Certainly you may exclude the nominated Members if you have the majority you can do so, and personally, so far as I am concerned, if you do not elect me, I certainly will not complain. If you have a committee without me, try to do your best without me. I shall not therefore oppose this motion. Let the Select Committee be appointed, let the report come before the Legislature and let that report be considered, and I have no doubt that this question is a very important one and therefore it is worth while our considering this question in Select Committee.

Some Honourable Members: The question may now be put.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) The question is:

"That the question be now put."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) The question is:

"That the draft amendment to the Standing Orders be referred to a Select Committee."

The motion was adopted.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE AMENDMENT TO STANDING ORDERS

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) Standing Order 56(2) of the Legislative Assembly Standing Orders requires that the Select Committee to which the draft amendment of the Standing Orders shall be referred, shall consist of the President, the Deputy President and seven other Members selected by the Assembly by means of the single transferable vote.

I have accordingly to announce that the Notice Office will be open to receive nominations for this Select Committee up to 12 Noon on Friday, the 17th November, and that the election, if necessary, will be held on Monday, the 20th November. The election, which will be conducted in accordance with the principle of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote, will be held in the Assistant Secretary's room in the Council House between the hours of 10-30 A.M. and 1 P.M.

THE PUBLIC DEBT (CENTRAL GOVERNMENT) BILL—contd

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) The House will now resume further consideration of the Bill to consolidate and amend the law relating to Government securities.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman (Finance Member) I merely wish to say that in accordance with what I said yesterday I have consulted the Honourable Members principally interested and amendments have been put in which will be found to be acceptable to Government.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) The House will now deal with the Bill clause by clause. The question is:

"That clause 2 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2 was added to the Bill.

Clauses 3, 4, 5 and 6 were added to the Bill.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari (Tanjore cum Trichinopoly; Non-Muhammadian Rural): Sir, I move:

"That to clause 7 of the Bill, the following proviso be added:
'Provided that nothing in this section shall bar the recognition by the Bank of the manager or the sole surviving male member of a Hindu undivided family governed by the Mitakshara Law as having a title to a Government security, when the security appears to the Bank to stand in the name of a deceased member of the family and an application is made by such manager or sole surviving member for recognition of his title and is supported by a certificate signed by such authority and after such inquiry as may be prescribed to the effect that the deceased belonged to a Hindu undivided family governed by the Mitakshara Law, that the Government security formed part of the joint property of the family and that the applicant is the managing or sole surviving male member of the family."

Explanation:—The expression 'Hindu undivided family governed by the Mitakshara Law' shall, for the purposes of this section, be deemed to include a Malabar *tarwad*."

Mr. T. Chapman-Mortimer (Bengal—European). Sir, I want to ask 'or your ruling on a point of order. I received notice of this amendment last night I do not know whether this is the one which has been put forward as the result of consultations with the Honourable the Finance Member. If it is an agreed amendment, I do not suppose that we on these Benches would want to oppose it. I am raising this point now because there is an increasing tendency in this House for amendments to be moved by Honourable Members notwithstanding that they contravene Standing Order 46 and we in this Group feel unanimously that this is a very bad and dangerous practice.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Baisman: This is an agreed amendment.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I understand that an amendment to the same effect was tabled two days ago.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: An amendment to the same effect was tabled, as soon as the Select Committee report was presented to the House and this amendment is an agreed amendment between the Honourable the Finance Member and some of the Members who have proposed similar amendments.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Objection was taken before the Honourable the Deputy President who was in the Chair that this motion should not be moved, as the Report of the Select Committee had not been before the House for full seven days. The Deputy President apparently did waive the Standing Order and allowed the motion to be moved. In those circumstances the amendments of which notice had been given for less than two days could be moved. I do not see that there is any serious objection to this amendment.

Mr. T. Chapman-Mortimer: I just want to make one observation, with reference to what you have said. We on these Benches do not want in any way to obstruct or oppose the proposal now before the House but what we do want to emphasize is the tendency which always arises when Government and the Congress are here in force for the Congress and the Government to make arrangements over the head of everybody else and then we are expected to waive the Standing Order. I am not suggesting that in this case there is anything wrong at all. I do not want that impression to get about.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I quite agree with the Honourable Member that when any amendment is placed before the House as a result of arrangement between the Government Member and certain Members of the Opposition it is only fair that other Members should have notice of the amendment and if it is an agreed amendment, there could be no objection to its being moved.

Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta (Chittagong and Rajshahi Divisions; Non-Muhammadian Rural): It was with the consent of the House.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: I have nothing to say in amplification of this amendment. It is an agreed amendment and in this particular amendment.

Sir Gowanjee Jehangir (Bombay City; Non-Muhammadian Urban): **Mr. President**, I rise to a point of order. It is merely in order that a wrong precedent may not be set that I rise to a point of order. This amendment, as it

[Sir Cowasjee Jehangir.]

stands just now, was received by us late last night. It is not the same amendment exactly as was moved by the Honourable Member or was given notice of by the Honourable Member himself some days ago. It is now an agreed amendment between the Honourable the Finance Member and the Honourable the Mover. But we received notice of it late last night. I have no objection to the amendment being moved at all but I do think that the permission of the House should be obtained before this amendment is allowed to be moved and the Standing Order should be waived in all these cases so that a wrong precedent may not be set. Today we are all agreed and today all of us want it to be moved. Next time the Honourable the Finance Member and some other Honourable Members may come to terms.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) The Honourable Member did not follow my ruling. I said that it is expected that other Members of the House should be taken into confidence and they should have notice. As the Honourable Member (Mr Chapman-Mortimer), who raised this point of order, did not press it so far as this amendment was concerned, I allowed the discussion to proceed. There ought to be no misunderstanding. I have laid down time after time that whenever amendments are moved, sufficient notice to all the Members of the House should be given and I repeat that now.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: Then the vote of the House should be taken that this amendment should be allowed to be moved.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) There is no need to take the vote of the House. In fact no objection has been taken to this amendment being moved.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: Sir, I have nothing further to say except that I do maintain that this amendment is substantially identical with the amendment of which I had given notice. The alterations are of a more or less verbal nature. My Honourable friend Mr Chapman-Mortimer knew fully well about it when this matter was raised in the Select Committee. Anyway, so far as the procedure is concerned, I have nothing more to say. The fact that the House has discussed this amendment *threadbare* prevents me from saying anything further without unduly taking the time of the House.

Sir, I move

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) Amendment moved

"That to clause 7 of the Bill, the following proviso be added

"Provided that nothing in this section shall bar the recognition by the Bank of the manager or the sole surviving male member of a Hindu undivided family governed by the Mitakshara Law as having a title to a Government security, when the security appears to the Bank to stand in the name of a deceased member of the family and an application is made by such manager or sole surviving member for recognition of his title and is supported by a certificate signed by such authority and after such inquiry as may be prescribed by the effect that the deceased belonged to a Hindu undivided family governed by the Mitakshara Law, that the Government security formed part of the joint property of the family and that the applicant is the managing or sole surviving male member of the family."

Explanation—The expression 'Hindu undivided family governed by the Mitakshara Law' shall, for the purposes of this section, be deemed to include a Malabar *tarwad*."

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar (Salem and Coimbatore *cum* North Arcot Non-Muhammadan Rural) Sir, this is an agreed amendment and so there is no need for a speech. I would only make a suggestion to the Finance Member. The certificate mentioned in this clause must be signed by such authority and after such inquiry as may be prescribed to this effect by the Government. The District Magistrate has been prescribed as such authority by the Rules made under the present Act. We would suggest whether it would not be better that this should be a summary inquiry by a judicial authority in the District. I would like the Finance Member to bear this point in mind when he considers the making of rules under clause 28 for this purpose.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Baisman: Sir, the amendment in its present form is one which has been agreed with me and therefore it is acceptable to the Government. I would like to say with reference to some of the apprehensions that have been expressed by Honourable Members that my sole concern was that if a provision of this nature was to be embodied in the statute, it should be technically in order and therefore I was anxious to have it properly examined and put in the correct form by the Draftsman. That is the only reason why the ordinary procedure was slightly departed from. But I think it was in the interests of the House and in the interests of securing good legislation.

As regards the question asked by my Honourable friend Mr. Avinashilingam Chettiar, I am not quite sure that I understand the point of his suggestion. As I understand it, the whole desire for this amendment arises from the fact that instead of going to the courts in order, for instance, to obtain a succession certificate, it was desired that, as under the existing rules, the applicant should be able to get a certificate from the District Magistrate after due inquiry, certifying that he was the *karta* and that the security was the property of the joint Hindu family and so on. That I understood was regarded as a more convenient and expeditious mode of substantiating the claim than the normal method of going to the ordinary sub-judge or whoever might be the judicial authority. It was not the case that the applicant would, alternatively, have to go to the High Court or anything of that kind. I understand that the alternatives were proceedings in the local courts or this certificate from the District Magistrate. So, I am not clear what the Honourable Member is now suggesting. On the passing of this amendment and when the Bill becomes law, Government would naturally proceed to frame the rules very much in the sense of the existing rules.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) The question is

“That to clause 7 of the Bill, the following proviso be added: ‘Provided that nothing in this section shall bar the recognition by the Bank of the manager or the sole surviving male member of a Hindu undivided family governed by the Mitakshara Law as having a title to a Government security, when the security appears to the Bank to stand in the name of a deceased member of the family and an application is made by such manager or sole surviving member for recognition of his title and is supported by a certificate signed by such authority and after such inquiry as may be prescribed to the effect that the deceased belonged to a Hindu undivided family governed by the Mitakshara Law, that the Government security formed part of the joint property of the family and that the applicant is the managing or sole surviving male member of the family.’”

Explanation.—The expression ‘Hindu undivided family governed by the Mitakshara Law’ shall, for the purposes of this section, be deemed to include a Malabar *tarwad*.”

The motion was adopted.

Clause 7, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 8 was added to the Bill.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Sir, I move

“That in clause 8 of the Bill, after the words ‘is not produced to the Bank’ the following be inserted:

‘or proof to the satisfaction of the Bank that proceedings have been instituted to obtain one of these is not furnished.’”

Sir, this is an agreed amendment and nothing more need be said on it. It only gives the parties a little more time.

Sir, I move

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) The question is:

“That in clause 8 of the Bill, after the words ‘is not produced to the Bank’ the following be inserted:

‘or proof to the satisfaction of the Bank that proceedings have been instituted to obtain one of these is not furnished.’”

The motion was adopted.

Clause 9, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clauses 10 to 13 were added to the Bill.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Clause 14:

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Guntur cum Nellore Non-Muhammadian Rural): Sir, I move

"That in sub-clause (1) of clause 14, the following words be omitted.
'or any Magistrate of the second class subordinate to him'."

I have very few words to say in support of this amendment. It may be that this particular sub-clause was introduced with a view to help those people who are supposed to come under clause 9. What I wish to say is this. If you give this very important right of recording evidence to such low paid officers as second class Magistrates, then there is very great fear that many of these people may not do justice to the duty entrusted to them. It may also happen that some interested people may get at the second class Magistrates more easily and try to prejudice the recording of this evidence with a view to jeopardise the interest of the lawful party. Therefore, I suggest that these words should be dropped so that this function of recording evidence will be left only to first class Magistrates, who may do greater justice to the duty of recording evidence. I hope the Government will accept my amendment. Sir, I move.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Amendment moved.

"That in sub-clause (1) of clause 14, the following words be omitted
'or any Magistrate of the second class subordinate to him'."

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Sir, this provision already exists in the present law and it has always been there. I would suggest that there is a good reason for it. This clause is for the convenience of the claimants, to have their evidence recorded conveniently. If you restrict the recording of evidence to District Magistrates or First Class Magistrates, it means that the claimants are involved in making a journey at least to the headquarters which may not after all be necessary. After all, the main enquiry is being held by the Reserve Bank itself, possibly at the Provincial headquarters. The recording of the evidence is in the nature of a commission or by whatever name you call it, and the only object is to suit the convenience of the party concerned and enable him to have his evidence recorded locally. I would also draw the attention of the House to another point. It is not every second class Magistrate who is to record evidence, but second class Magistrates empowered in this behalf by general or special order of the Provincial Government, that presumably would restrict the power to certain selected second class Magistrates. I would ask that the Honourable Member should not press his amendment for another reason. I am not sure whether, if his amendment is made, the further words 'empowered in this behalf by general or special order of the Provincial Government' will have to go. I do not know whether First Class Magistrates also are to be empowered to record evidence.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: No.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: That is not a matter which you can know merely by reading the section. It is to be enquired and found out whether every First Class Magistrate has this power or whether he has to be specially empowered, so that the effect of the amendment would be to create a doubt in my own mind as to whether the provision was appropriate. For these reasons, I oppose the amendment.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is—

"That in sub-clause (1) of clause 14, the following words be omitted.
'or any Magistrate of the second class subordinate to him'."

The motion was negatived.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghami (Tirhut Division: Muhammadan): Sir, I move.

"That at the end of sub-clause (3) of clause 14 the following words be added:
'but an affirmation if the witness is a Muslim or Hindu'."

[Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani.]

Sir, it is laid down here that "A Magistrate or an officer of the Bank acting in pursuance of this section may administer an oath to any witness examined by him". Sir, 'oath' sometimes includes special oath also. Under the Indian Oaths Act, it sometimes happens that if an opposite party challenges and calls upon the complainant to swear by Koran Shariff or by water of the Ganges, then if the party agrees, he may do so and the Court will administer the special oath. But in case the party does not agree, then the court has power to make certain observations which may affect the case of the party. In this case there is provision in the Indian Oaths Act that a Hindu or a Muslim shall not be compelled to take oath. The law gives facilities to Hindus and Muslims to make a solemn affirmation instead of an oath, and in the absence of such facilities not only the Magistrate but the Bank also will compel them to take the oath. Therefore all I want is that the safeguards already in the Indian Oaths Act should be provided here. I hope the Honourable Member will accept this harmless amendment.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahma) Amendment moved.

"That at the end of sub-clause (3) of clause 14 the following words be added.
'but an affirmation if the witness is a Muslim or Hindu' "

Mr. Sri Prakasha (Allahabad and Jhansi Divisions Non-Muhammadian Rural) Sir, so far as I know, the general law on a subject like this will apply to this case also. The general law, if I am not mistaken, is that wherever an oath is prescribed, solemn affirmation can be made by the person concerned. But if that law does not apply to this case I would suggest that the privilege of making a solemn affirmation instead of taking an oath should not be confined only to Hindus and Muslims but should extend to all persons of all faiths, because I think every one should have the privilege of making a solemn affirmation if they have any conscientious objection to take the oath. I hope the Finance Member will be able to satisfy the House on this matter.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Baisman: Sir, I do not know whether the Mover of this motion has read the report of the Select Committee, but we did go into this matter in the Select Committee, and as we understood it, the answer is provided by the definition in the General Clauses Act, "that 'oath' shall include affirmation and declaration in the case of persons by law allowed to affirm or declare, instead of swearing". It seems to me that that provides a complete answer and that no further provision is necessary.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: Sir, in view of the observation just made I do not press my motion, and beg leave to withdraw it.

The amendment was, by leave of the Assembly, withdrawn.
Clauses 14 to 23 were added to the Bill.

Mr. Sri Prakasha: Sir, I beg to move

"That for clause 24 of the Bill, the following be substituted.

"24. Where no shorter period of limitation is fixed by any law, for the time being in force, the liability of the Central Government in respect of any interest payment due on a Government security shall terminate on the expiry of six years from the date on which the amount due by way of interest became payable."

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim). The Honourable Member can speak after lunch.

The Assembly then adjourned for Lunch till Half Past Two of the Clock.

The Assembly re-assembled after Lunch at Half Past Two of the Clock,
Mr Deputy President (Mr Akhil Chandra Datta) in the Chair.

Mr. Sri Prakasha: Mr Deputy President, Sir. Just as the House rose for lunch I had moved my amendment to clause 24. The House will remember that the subject matter of clause 24 was hotly debated in the House and it was agreed at the end.

Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury (Bengal Landholders) On a point of order. Sir, there is no quorum.

(On a count being taken, it was found that there were 25 Members present.)

Mr. Sri Prakasha: I am glad that at least 25 Members of the House are interested to hear the debate on a subject like this.

During the course of the debate, it was pointed out that it would not be fair for Government to try to swallow up all capital and interest on Government securities simply because a certain number of years had elapsed before a demand for payment was made, and in the end it was decided that the matter should stand over and that, if possible, an agreement may be come to between the various points of view. The amendment that I am putting before the House is the result of the conversation that some Members of the House, interested in the amendments, had with the Honourable the Finance Member; and the House will see that there is a change in two directions. The original clause said that on the expiry of twelve years neither the capital nor the interest would be payable. Now there would be no limitation for the payment of capital, but there would be, unfortunately, a limitation for the payment of interest, and if the interest is not paid within six years, then, according to this amendment, the interest would no more be payable. Honestly, Sir, my own idea in matters like this is that when a sum is payable to a person it should be payable for ever, but, as I said before, the law of limitation has come in our country, and there is limitation in the matter of payment in various directions. While the Honourable the Finance Member has conceded to us the very important and necessary point of being able to demand the principal till the end of time—till at least the end of his Government, which I would be glad to see go even if I lose all my securities—he was unwilling to concede the same privilege in the matter of interest and not only that but even the limit of 12 years has now been reduced to six. I pleaded in vain with him that at least the figure 12 should be left in the matter of interest, but he was adamant, and I did not want to press the matter to a breaking point, because I found that he had at least yielded in the matter of capital which was, in a way, more important.

There is one thing that I should like to say and I say this in all seriousness, and I do hope that the Honourable the Finance Member will be able to give some satisfaction to us in this matter. It so happens that at the present moment there is a law, or so-called law, prevalent in the land under which Government can catch hold of a person and keep him indefinitely in jail. The letter that Dr. Syed Mahmud, Member of the Congress Working Committee, published the other day after his release.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta) How does that come in here?

Mr. Sri Prakasha: I am coming to that. That letter, showed that while in jail, he was not allowed to communicate with his lawyers or even to sign a power of attorney to enable somebody to look after his property. Now, Sir, in a case like that, it is quite possible that Government may keep a person in jail for over six years, not give him any facilities to communicate with persons outside, keep even the place of his confinement secret as was done in this case, deprive him of every possibility of managing his affairs, and then at the end of six years he would stand to lose interest on his securities. If Government keeps a man in detention for six years—as they very well might, seeing how long the war is dragging on—and then he comes out and finds that interest on his securities had not been drawn, then he may be in danger of losing a fair bit of his property. I think that some provision must be made by the Finance Department in such cases where flagrant piece of justice, not due to laches on the part of the person concerned, may be perpetrated. In the hope that the department will look at this problem in an understanding and accommodating spirit, and also in the hope that the law will be administered with leniency and with sympathy, I commend my amendment to the acceptance of the House.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr Akhil Chandra Datta) Amendment moved:

"That for clause 24 of the Bill, the following be substituted

"24 Where no shorter period of limitation is fixed by any law for the time being in force, the liability of the Central Government in respect of any interest payment due on a Government security shall terminate on the expiry of six years from the date on which the amount due by way of interest became payable."

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: As I indicated in the House the other day, my understanding of the position is that the law, as it at present stands, provides for no limitation in the case of claims for payment of the principal sum due on a Government security, but that the limitation of six years operates in the case of claims for interest due on a security. But I would like to be clear that it is not Government's intention in any way to depart from its practice in regard to these matters. The real necessity of limitation arises from the fact of disputed claims, and our main object was to facilitate the administration of the public debt and to prevent items being kept on the books for decades after the records relating to particular issues had been cleaned up.

The main effect of a limitation as I understand it is that no second claim for the payment of the interest which in most cases will already have been met could possibly be initiated in any Court, at any rate after a period of six years. From what I have said it would follow that in cases such as that referred to by my Honourable friend the Administrator of the Public Debt would be unlikely to refuse to entertain a reasonable representation. I am surprised that my Honourable friend should think himself free to argue against the amendment which resulted from agreement and which he himself has moved.

The amendment as moved by my Honourable friend is acceptable to Government.

Sir Gomasjee Jehangir: What is the significance of "shall terminate"?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: It is the liability that will terminate. But my Honourable friend referred to a case where he himself received interest for a much longer period than six years from which it would seem that in cases where there is no dispute or doubt Government do not always stand on the letter of the law even at present.

Sir Gomasjee Jehangir: And will not in the future?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I have already spoken on that point.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr Akhil Chandra Datta) The question is:

"That for clause 24 of the Bill, the following be substituted

"24 Where no shorter period of limitation is fixed by any law for the time being in force, the liability of the Central Government in respect of any interest payment due on a Government security shall terminate on the expiry of six years from the date on which the amount due by way of interest became payable."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr Akhil Chandra Datta) The question is

"That Clause 24, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 24, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clauses 25 to 27 were added to the Bill.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr Akhil Chandra Datta) There is an amendment to Clause 28 by Mr Krishnamachari.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: Sir, I move

"That in sub-clause (2) of clause 28 of the Bill, after item (n), the following be added

"(o) the authority by whom the certificate referred to in the proviso to section 7 is to be granted and the manner of making the inquiry therein mentioned."

This is consequential to the amendment to clause 7 and finds mention in the original Act which it seeks to amend.

Sir, I move

Mr. Deputy President (Mr Akhil Chandra Datta) Amendment moved

"That in sub-clause (2) of clause 28 of the Bill, after item (n), the following be added

"(o) the authority by whom the certificate referred to in the proviso to section 7 is to be granted and the manner of making the inquiry therein mentioned"

Mr. T. S. Avinashlingam Chettiar: I would like to say a few words on the way in which the Honourable the Finance Member has tackled this problem. It is very good of him to have accepted our amendments and to have assured us that he would administer the law as it stands today. We owe it to him that we have avoided so many divisions and speeches and also saved the valuable time of this House.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr Akhil Chandra Datta) Sir Jeremy Raisman

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: The amendment is acceptable and I appreciate the kind words in which my Honourable friend has referred to the procedure by which the time of the House has been shortened.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr Akhil Chandra Datta) The question is

"That in sub-clause (2) of clause 28 of the Bill, after item (n), the following be added

"(o) the authority by whom the certificate referred to in the proviso to section 7 is to be granted and the manner of making the inquiry therein mentioned"

The motion was adopted

Mr. Deputy President (Mr Akhil Chandra Datta) There is another amendment to clause 28 by Mr Sri Prakasa

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Sir, I move

"That to clause 28 of the Bill the following new sub-clause be added

"(3) A copy of all rules under this section shall be laid on the table of both the Chambers of the Indian Legislature as soon as may be after they are made"

It is just a formal amendment and by passing this the House will make it incumbent on Government to place before the Legislature the rules they make so that we may all know what the rules are and not have them thrown upon us by surprise. Sir, I move

Mr. Deputy President (Mr Akhil Chandra Datta) The question is

"That to clause 28 of the Bill, the following new sub-clause be added

"(3) A copy of all rules under this section shall be laid on the table of both the Chambers of the Indian Legislature as soon as may be after they are made"

The motion was adopted

Clause 28, as amended, was added to the Bill

Clause 29 was added to the Bill

Clause 1 was added to the Bill

The Title and the Preamble were added to the Bill

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Sir, I move

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed"

I feel, Sir, that I would like to take this opportunity to pay a tribute to the work of the late Sir James Taylor, who originally did most of the spadework underlying this useful and necessary measure. His death was a great blow to all those of us who worked with him and it also was, I have no doubt, a very great loss to India. It is not easy for members of the general public to appreciate the amount of useful work that is done in the quiet of his office by a man of the type of the late Sir James Taylor. He was constantly engaged in trying to improve the regulations and the arrangements relating to various matters of this kind and the fruit of his work will be appreciated, I have no doubt, for very many years to come. This measure is only a very small part of the outcome of his labours.

Sir, I move

Mr. Deputy President (Mr Akhil Chandra Datta) Motion moved

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed"

Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali (Lucknow and Fyzabad Divisions, Muhammadan Rural) Sir, being a member of this Committee I would like to put in a word or two. In fact it was the name of Sir James Taylor that conjured up too much in our opinions on this Bill. Whenever there was any objection

from our side, the popular side, in the Select Committee, his name was mentioned and we all knew perfectly well that Sir James Taylor was a very clever and up-to-date hard-working man so far as Banking Law is concerned. In fact whether in this House, when he was a Member, or outside I had found him to be one of the nicest gentlemen in my life. Sir, I associate myself with the tribute that has been paid by the Honourable the Finance Member.

Sir, the efforts of my friends on the opposition side to make the law more in conformity with public interest are also to be congratulated. Our friends on this side have really taken great interest in persuading the Government to conform to their views. It is very seldom that I find Government agreeable on such occasions. But this time I do not know how, but I believe it is because the principles enunciated were such that the Government could not oppose the popular opinion on this side of the House.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr Akhil Chandra Datta) The question is

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

The motion was adopted.

THE INDIAN RICE COMMITTEE BILL—*contd*

Mr. Deputy President (Mr Akhil Chandra Datta) The House will now proceed with the further consideration of the motion moved by Mr J D Tyson.

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sart (West Coast and Nilgiris Muhammadan) Sir, yesterday, when the House rose, I had made the point that Mr Tyson himself in one of his observations had supported me in my demand for circulating the Bill, when he stated that by the departmental circulation that he had of this Bill he received very useful suggestions, which he incorporated in this Bill. Therefore I argue that if further circulation is allowed and if the Bill is placed before the people as a whole, people who are interested in the development of agriculture and in the attainment of the object that we have in view, (our object, which I summarised as more rice, better rice and rice easily produced) such people will surely be able to give us many more useful suggestions and therefore circulation will only be of further help.

With regard to this question of circulation, I have one or two suggestions to make. First, I request my Honourable friend to see to it that the circulation of this Bill at least is as wide as possible. What happens in this circulation business is that it is published in the official gazette of the Province and people are expected to express their opinions. Generally, the official gazette is read in very limited circles. I would therefore request my Honourable friend to see that with regard to this Bill, in which almost everybody in the country is interested, he issues instructions to the effect that the Provincial Governments should send copies of this Bill duly translated in vernaculars to the vernacular press, especially that section of the press which is widely read in the rural parts. In sending the copies, which is usually done, to certain associations he will see that the circle is widened sufficiently to include all the associations which are expected to take an interest in this question.

Then I find that in circulating these Bills it sometimes happens that opinion is invited upon particular points only. With regard to that I would request my Honourable friend to instruct the Provincial Governments that in inviting opinions, they should not be very strict about the opinions being confined to the provisions of the Bill alone. If, for instance, some association or some body can give us some suggestions which do not pertain to any of the provisions embodied in the Bill but which will prove of very great use, then certainly they should not be barred from expressing those opinions.

With particular reference to what I have just now said certain things have struck me. In the Bill itself there is very little co-ordination between the departments of the Central Government which are concerned in this matter. For instance, there is Irrigation. I do not know what this Rice Committee is going to do without proper arrangements for irrigation throughout the

[Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait]

country. So far as the provisions of the Bill are concerned this Committee will have nothing to do, not even have the right to express their opinion with regard to a comprehensive scheme of irrigation that will be needed.

Then there is this great and wonderful Council of Agricultural Research. It is true that its representatives are on the Committee but having representatives on the Committee alone will not do. There must be better co-ordination between these two. Then there is the Food Department. What will be the relations between the two? How will they work? As a matter of fact there

3PM was a suggestion that all these departments should be brought under one head. I will not detain the House long on this but this is what is in our minds when we support the motion for circulation. That is what I meant when I said that all these departments should be brought together, at least, under the purview of this committee, and this should be the one central body which will deal with the problem of production of food in India. But if my Honourable friend has in mind the kind of committee we have under the Coffee Cess Act and the Tea Cess Act and so on, then certainly I do not think anybody in this House will support this measure because our experience of these committees is very sad. I have here—and I will detain the House only for a minute or two—the third annual report of the Indian Coffee Board. The one point on which I want the attention of the House to be focused is this: that during the three years to which this report pertains, the income of the Board and the expenditure bore the ratio of 100 to 50 when the income was a lakh and odd, the expenditure was 44,000, when the income was 2 lakhs odd, the expenditure was 1,26,000. This expenditure on administration alone—not on research work and not on the work of propaganda—was 50 per cent. 50 per cent of the income was spent on secretariat, control headquarters and control inspectorate alone. So, though it may not be the intention, I feel that these committees develop into bodies where people may find very happy and fat jobs. Then, when there is a committee working the House generally does not get many opportunities of going into what the committees are doing even if questions are asked the reply given is that this particular committee is dealing with it. Therefore I am not very happy about these committees and I would warn my friend that the House may not be very willing to accept this measure if all that he envisages, when the measure comes before the House next time, is the formation of a committee like those that he mentioned in his speech.

That is almost all that I have to say. The result of carrying out my observations may be that my Honourable friend may be called upon probably to recast this Bill in a much wider form. That may become necessary, but I think that will be a very good thing and a thing which the House will approve. The purpose that we in this House have in view is the removal of want, so far as food is concerned. I believe this is one of the freedoms that is being very much talked about now—freedom from want of food, and that object I say should be before us when we proceed with this Bill. With these words I commend my motion to the acceptance of this House.

The Honourable Sir Jogendra Singh (Member for Education, Health and Lands). Sir, I rise to explain the broad principles of agricultural improvement of which this Bill is the forerunner. Before I do so, I wish to assure my friend Prof. Ranga who, I know, is a friend of the peasant, and I have a high regard for Mrs. Subbarayan and admire her becoming garments of patriotism—I am sure she will have the grace to countenance patriotic acts though such acts may for a moment cast a glow of patriotism over the unworthy persons who sit on these Benches. I should also like to tell my friends that I and my forefathers have lived on land or followed the profession of arms.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari (Tanjore *cum* Trichinopoly Non-Muhammadian Rural). Why do you not go back to it?

The Honourable Sir Jogendra Singh: I am there—I have never left it. I can claim some direct knowledge of agricultural conditions and what materially can help the growers. There is this difference between me and my

two friends—they are content with the glamour of words enamoured of reasoning in the abstract of agricultural economies and retired to the realm of unrealities, leaving action to some distant future when they have shattered the present order and remoulded it nearer to their hearts' desire. We are concerned with the needs of the immediate present and do our poor best to improve the living conditions, thus preparing the way for larger measures of reconstructions which it may be given to my friends in the future to implement. My friends here demur because we are taking measures which are for the good of the people, and I am sure Gandhi would not demur if his constructive plan is implemented even by the lowliest of the lowliest. I thought that in matters of vital importance our friends are here to render full support. I am disappointed that Prof. Ranga of all men should spend all his eloquence to oppose that which would serve the best interests of the peasants whose cause is so dear to his heart. I leave the Mover of the Bill to deal in detail with some of the points raised by the Honourable Members. I will just dwell on two or three of the principal objections which have been raised.

The urgency of improving the rice crop is evident from the existing scarcity. No one can realise the consequences of this prolonged scarcity better than my two friends, Prof. Ranga and Mrs. Subbarayan. Madras, like Bengal can no more draw on surplus supplies from Burma. I am sure they will agree that India in no case should depend on imports of food from outside. How can we then wait and ignore the urgent need of increasing the production of rice and other foodgrains. I may inform that Burma, even when the war ends, will no more be in a position to meet our needs. We must therefore depend and exploit our own resources immediately and without delay if we are to meet our permanent and future requirements. It has also been asserted with much emphasis that rice research committee will imply an incursion by the Centre in the provincial domain. I have been a Minister in a province myself, and I can tell you the eagerness with which we received any financial assistance from the Centre.

Then it has been said that the cess of less than a pice on rice husked in mills only, would be a new and crushing burden. If the growers only knew that the research on rice may give them at least two maunds of additional rice per acre, they would be prepared to contribute something corresponding to the cash advantage they would get. I am confident that research on rice will at least increase production by four maunds an acre. This cess is not a burden. It is an investment which will give an assured return which no other investment can bring to the cultivator. We have the example of the working of the Cotton Committee dealing with an important and extensively cultivated crop. During its short period of existence, the research staff of the Committee have produced long staple cotton which covers now many millions of acres. They are on the way of improving staple still further so that India may no more import cotton from abroad. Professor Ranga confessed that he failed to secure from Central revenues adequate funds for the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research. Now that we are attempting to provide special resources for research he asks us to knock at the door which refuses to yield it to the powerful knocking. The Central and Provincial revenue—where do they come from but from the farmer, the manufacturer or the consumer? These revenues have many demands to meet, while funds raised to meet particular crops can be used for no other purpose by a self-governing committee on which I have provided the adequate representation of growers.

An Honourable Member: Question

The Honourable Sir Jogendra Singh: Now, what are the methods which have enabled some of the advanced countries to obtain at least twice the yield which we obtain per acre of rice in India. They have conducted research and produced high yielding and disease resisting seed. They have carried out soil analysis and made arrangement to enrich it with the fertilisers needed for the crop. They have taken measures to avoid and overcome crop diseases and insect pests. What have we done so far to improve the rice crop?

An Honourable Member: Nothing

The Honourable Sir Jogendra Singh: I am not sure even 1 per cent of the areas is under the improved seed. Our rice yield at present compared with some other countries happens to be the lowest. It is to provide for immediate research for improving this most important crop which has been in permanent short production that the cess is needed and the Committee is to undertake this research. Yet our friends are pleading for postponement of work which, if they were serious about it, they should have pressed for immediate action. After all what we in this Committee attempt is to bring the producer, consumer and trader together and provide them with funds. We invest them with the power of ordering research to the best possible advantage. We make it possible for the Rice Committee when it is formed to start research with the object of producing high yielding and disease resisting seed, to study soil conditions and water and manure requirements of this important crop in areas where rice is extensively grown, to find out means how to resist the invasion of insects and pests. As I am on the point the House will be glad to know that we have for the first time defeated two invasions of locusts by an organised campaign under the leadership of Nern Singh Pruthi and saved crores of rupees worth of crops. There is an enormous field for improvement all along the line, I may say, for all major crops, including wheat and it is my purpose to place all crops under committees, to organise proper research so that modern science may be brought to the help of the producer and the consumer under market conditions favourable to both. It would serve our food problem within a limited number of years. The Honourable Mr. Sait pleaded that the activity of the committee may almost embrace the whole food problem. I am sure he will admit that the rice crop, if we improve its production and yield, would only be a beginning in the direction of other crops being similarly treated and in the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research we have a co-ordinating authority which deals with all the crops and now in the Centre also we have a Department of Agriculture which would exclusively devote itself to the food problem but it is not possible that in the case of a single crop we should provide all that is required both regarding production and distribution of food. I would appeal to the House to support this measure and not only the formation of this Committee but also other committees which must follow if the food position is to be placed on a firm foundation.

Mr. Sami Vencatachalam Chetty (Madras Indian Commerce) I wish to make a few observations on this motion. Sir Jogendra Singh, traditional farmer as he is, has entirely misunderstood the criticism which has emanated from these Benches. No elected representative or representatives are less vitally interested in rice than the Honourable Member who spoke last. If in spite of that, criticism has been made against the present motion, it is due to the unsatisfactory nature of the Bill that has been presented to this House. I grant that this Bill has been actuated by good intentions, though they are jumbled. It appears that the intention of the Government is to achieve them by methods which have been proved more than once to be inadequate, unsatisfactory and even to a certain extent obstructive. It is in order that the Government might take suggestions not only from this House but from the general public as to what extent the scope of this Bill could be enlarged and improved that this motion has been made by my Honourable friend Prof. Ranga.

In the first place it looks as though the Government wants to run away with the cheap credit of fostering agricultural development by passing an Act constituting a committee. We are not unused to such methods of the Government. As has been already stated, this Bill is more or less on the lines of the Coffee Board, the Tea Board or the Cotton Committee. There is not any indication of the earnestness of the Government to foster the agricultural

development, they are not themselves anxious to contribute financially to the funds of the Fund that is intended to be instituted under this Bill. Therefore, if the Government merely want to lay the flattering unction to their souls that they did their best for rice, they can do so, but if they want to convince us that they are going to foster the agricultural development, particularly in rice by means of this Bill, I think they are terribly mistaken. Neither this House nor the outside public is in a mood hereafter to be deluded by such empty promises. It is the desire of this part of the House and I dare say of every section of the House that the Government should show their earnestness of fostering agricultural development by promising an equal amount of contribution of such an amount as may be raised by the levy of the 6 annas cess per ton. I grant and I do not myself think that 6 annas per ton for a purpose of this sort is a heavy levy and that it was going to affect either the producer or the consumer either way, but even the 6 annas levy would probably bring about 9 million rupees. If about 24 million tons of rice are produced, then the cess at the rate of 6 annas per ton will come to about 9 million rupees. But the objects for which this Bill is introduced are very wide. Undoubtedly such a body would require much larger sum of money at least in the early stages of the development of the rice products. Therefore, the first prerequisite for the acceptance of this Bill by this House is a promise by the Central Government that they would put in as much as the amount raised by the Fund in the coffers of this Board.

The second is this. I see that this Bill contemplates the Committee not only to deal with the productive branch of rice but also the marketing side. It is there that I say that there is a jumble of good intentions. I must impress the necessity of separating this marketing side from this productive side.

The Honourable Sir Jogendra Singh: May I explain what we mean by the marketing side? We mean provision of proper storage, grading and bulk marketing.

Mr. Sam Vencatachelam Chetty: Marketing is marketing. I should think that activities of this body must stop with the reaping of harvest. Thereafter, you may, if necessary, institute a marketing body for taking charge of the crops for proper storage, proper grading, packing, transport and marketing, etc., etc. Once you jumble marketing side along with the productive side, there is bound to be a certain amount of conflict of interests. On the body of this Committee you have naturally to put traders, merchants, representatives of the Associated Chambers of Commerce who, I take it, have nothing to do with this product and also the representatives of the Federation of Chambers of Commerce who cannot see eye to eye with the agricultural side or with the productive side of this product. I think one reform that we must do is to separate marketing from this productive aspect.

Thirdly, this body must be given powers of acquisition of large tracts of land from Provincial Governments in order to run agricultural farms on more modern methods and on scientific lines. They must run those fields by well-known methods of collectivization and by ploughing them with tractors and getting as best as possible from the rice. They must also have certain powers with regard to the zoning of the crops, so that there might not be overlapping or there might not be unsuitable crops being raised on fields. In fact, what I am aiming at is that opportunities should now be taken by the Central Government for agricultural planning all over the country and place these plans before the respective Provincial Governments with perhaps legislation under the concurrent list, so that such provinces as want to take advantage of that kind of planning might usefully do so.

Unless some such improved methods of paddy cultivation, soil examination and soil improvement, even perhaps the manufacture of fertilisers in order to develop the soil and also to have some sort of control, at least so far as these farms are concerned, for irrigation works—unless some such really useful powers are given to this body, it would do nothing except merely to col-

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lect this fund and spend, as other Committees are spending, over the executive staff of those bodies

I would also like that one of the objects of this Bill must be to devise certain measures by which the livestock necessary for the purpose of cultivation of paddy should also be attended to by this body

And I wonder why other grains are not taken into consideration along with rice There is no use of framing legislation for every cereal that we think of from day to day We now know how this country is deficient in many articles of foodstuffs We also hope that whether Burma is recaptured or not India should be self-sufficient in at least so far as the foodstuffs are concerned It may be that even if Burma should become part of the British Empire, we do not want to import rice from that place Let us develop our resources in such a way as to be self-sufficient in so far as the foodstuffs for man and the feed stuffs for cattle are concerned It was with the view of enlarging and improving the scope of the Board that the criticism has been levelled against this Bill I hope now that the Honourable Member for Education, Health and Lands has understood the import of our criticism, he would promise to this House that the Bill would be recast on some such lines of modern improvement and development—earnest development and not merely pseudo-development by passing an Act from the Central Legislature

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: Mr Deputy President, after having heard with the attention that is due to my Honourable and Venerable friend Sir Jogendra Singh, I still feel unconvinced that this Bill is at all necessary Hearing him, I felt that he wanted to placate this rather troublesome baby, Prof Ranga, with a toy to play with and he has intended to do nothing more than that by commending this Bill to the favourable consideration of the House Sir, my objection to this Bill is not political It may be that my venerable friend Sir Jogendra Singh has left that very useful occupation of a farmer and come to the rather unproductive business of Executive Councillor

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan (Rohilkund and Kumaon Divisions Muhammadan Rural) But profitable

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: I do not know, it may be profitable or it may not be It is the Honourable Sir Jogendra Singh that should tell us if it is profitable or not If my Honourable friend the Deputy Leader of the Muslim League Party thinks that these gentlemen are attracted merely because of the salary that they get, I do not agree with him The bulk of the salary goes in the shape of house rent, entertainment and taxes There must be other incentives, other things that attract them but in the case of the Honourable Sir Jogendra Singh, I must say that he has left a very useful occupation useful just at this time when this country is engaged in the 'grow more food campaign'

That apart, I am in a position to say that within the four corners of this Bill, I find enough material to condemn this Bill with bell, book and candle, leaving out of the question politics altogether Sir, the Honourable Sir Jogendra Singh and the Honourable Mover of this Bill had mentioned something about the incentive to this Bill having been created by suggestions made at the meeting of some Committee in India, I think they called it by some funny name, 'Agricultural committee'—that Committee seems to have recommended that there should be a Rice Committee

An Honourable Member: What is the meaning of 'Agricultural'?

Mr. Sri Prakasa (Allahabad and Jhansi Divisions Non-Muhammadan Rural) Consult the Oxford Dictionary

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: You must ask the author of the name, the Honourable Sir Jogendra Singh I understand that they have since dropped that name I strongly resent the suggestion that a measure, which is supposed to be beneficial to this country which this House has been asked to accept, should come from some pet hobby of a Member of the Executive Council,

through some kind of Star Chamber which the Government have nominated and which they summon at their will and pleasure and in which they discuss all things under the sun in *purdah*, and then we are told that the matter has been discussed, and that wise body had suggested such and such a thing, and that this House had better accept it. That is what all that has been said really comes to. Sir, my objection to this Bill is many-sided. My claim to object to this Bill arises out of the fact that I represent in this House one of the two principal rice producing zones in my Province. I am not devoid of any knowledge how rice is produced either.

Mr. Sami Vencatachellam Chetty: You eat rice.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: Yes, I eat rice. One eats many things, the origin of which one never knows and probably if one knows it, one will never eat them.

If this is a company prospectus and if I am asked to subscribe to the shares of that company, I shall say, no. The prospectus is bad, it does not reveal the objects of the company, it does not assure me that the Directors of the company are going to use its funds in the proper manner, it does not tell me that the shares of the company will find a marketable value at any time and therefore the flotation of the company is bad and is a fraud.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: It is another East India company.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: In the East India company Britain struck a gold mine and very successfully built the British Empire out of it. What is it that we have been asked to approve of? We are told that a Rice Committee will be constituted with 51 Members. Why 51? Because it is one less than the number of people who waited on individually on Lord Lulithgow soon after the war broke out. Fifty-one men are expected to get together and work for the improvement of rice production in this country and to achieve the other objects for which this fund will be applied. Having constituted a Committee, the Bill next provides to find the finance for it. The Finance is found in a very peculiar way. It is not got from the grower, it is not got from the Provincial Government, it is to be got from the man who owns a rice mill, the fund is to be accumulated at a particular rate per ton of rice hulled. I cannot see the logic of it. It may be that perhaps Mr. Tyson is the best Government official from the point of view of Legislature, because he is the only official who takes the Legislature seriously and produces at least one Bill every Session for us to discuss here and send it to the Select Committee and ultimately the Bill gets on to the Statute Book. The other Members of the Government totally ignore this House. They get their work done through Ordinances. It may be that next year not finding any Bill to bring before this House and being in charge of the portfolio of Education, Health and Lands, he will come forward with a Bill to do propaganda for birth control. If he does it, I can make rather a rough guess how he would like to collect funds for that purpose. He will say that for every child born, the parents will have to pay six annas and at this rate he will collect five million six annas per year and then it will be a very comfortable fund at the end of a year. In fact, it appears to me that the logic of this measure does not appear to me to be anything more, in fact, it is much less, than the logic of the Government of India taking up the question of doing propaganda for birth control.

There is another aspect of this Bill which deserves mention. The provocation for this Bill seems to be the success of the Indian Central Cotton Committee. My Honourable friend the Deputy Leader of the Muslim League Party told us a story the other day in the Food Debate. I think it was a trifle misapplied. He told us about the story of that man who having pulled many hundreds of men, women and children from out of wells with a rope tried to pull out a boy from the top of a tree in the same manner with disastrous results. I think that story, if it is related now and in connection with this measure will be much more suitable than during the Food debate. Something was successful in the matter of cotton, something was successful in the matter of

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lac, therefore the same thing must also be successful in the matter of rice. Sir, my Honourable friend Prof Ranga very appropriately quoted from the report of the Indian Agricultural Commission. I do not want to steal his thunder by reading it over again. Am I to understand that this Report is relegated to oblivion and it is much less of an authority on agricultural matters, since the departure of Lord Linlithgow from the shores of India?

An Honourable Member: Even when he was here, that Report had no value.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: I am not sure. That particular report seems to have discountenanced completely the constitution of committees for particular types of food crops. I will ask the Honourable Sir Jogendra Singh and his Deputy in this House, do lands grow only rice? In my own part of the country, they do not grow rice only. The lands that grow rice grow other things also. The problem of food crops is one and indivisible, it cannot be tackled by the formation of a rice committee by itself. Is it at all the way to do it? The Food problem is a very serious one. Everybody agrees with that. Being a serious matter, it has got to be dealt with by the local authorities of the Provinces. It may be that we have not succeeded in any eminent degree in improving the quality of our rice, or in increasing the quantity of its output. The causes that stand in the way of that improvement being effected is not because an Indian Central Rice Committee has not been constituted with fifty-one people with a fund to be raised in a very queer manner which the Honourable Sir Jogendra Singh appears to say is the only thing that stands in the way of improving the food position in the country. Sir, so far as rice in my Province is concerned, let me tell the Honourable Sir Jogendra Singh that Government finances depend on the growth of rice in the Province. The bulk of the revenue of Provincial Governments excepting perhaps during war time happens to be from land on which paddy is grown, and land tax is assessed on the value of the product from the land, and the settlement is not of a permanent nature except in certain areas. There is periodical resettlement and the resettlement is made on the basis of the value of the crop and of the improved value of the land and the crop therefrom. So there is intimate connection between the production of rice and the provision of finance for the carrying on of the administration in my province, because rice fields provide by and large the largest quantum of revenue to the Government. And my Provincial Government have got a department of agriculture. It may be that it is not very active, it may be that it is not as successful as it should be, but it is maintained out of the revenues of the province and out of the revenues provided by the agriculturists. But my Honourable friend wants a committee of 51 to do this work, my Honourable friend wants to provide travelling allowance and *batta* for a number of people with no special qualifications to talk hot air either in Simla or in Delhi. If all that is needed is money for this purpose, cannot the provincial Government pay a quota of what it gets as land revenue on the lands that produce rice principally? If the committee that is going to be formed is in reality going to help to increase the output of rice, would not the Government revenue be augmented thereby? Would not therefore the Provincial Government be all the more interested in providing funds for the purpose which is dear to the heart of my venerable friend Sir Jogendra Singh?

That, Sir, is my principal objection. If really you want a co-ordinating committee, you want to co-ordinate the work done in the various provinces, I do not see how the function now performed by the I C A R could not be usefully extended to serve that end. I do not see why there should be a separate rice committee. If at all you start a rice committee, if at all you start putting into operation the sub-clauses of clause 9(2) from (a) to (j), it has to be done in the provinces, and much as my Honourable friend Sir Jogendra Singh is willing to help, he will not be able to help. Let him recollect what happened in that conference in Simla, that Agricultural Conference; was he

able to prevent a person incessantly talking about the importance of the *babul* tree? One of the members whom he had summoned got up and persisted in saying *ad nauseam* that for the improvement of agriculture in this country it is important to develop the *babul* tree, which happens to be the chief food of sheep and goats (*A Voice* "And camels"), Camels are a species of animals unknown in Southern India

The Honourable Sir Jogendra Singh: I can tell my Honourable friend that the *babul* tree does improve and soils. It is a leguminous plant which improves and fertilises the soil.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: If it is talk of that nature which will go on in this committee of 51, by the very nature of its constitution it will not help to produce one sheaf of paddy more than is being produced today. And I suggest that my Honourable friend is approaching the problem from the wrong end altogether. If he wants really to do something about it let him approach the provinces to constitute such committees and let the provinces take up this work. And if he wants finance for the I C A R to do the coordinating let him put an application to his colleague the Finance Member. I think the Finance Department will not, as they are at present constituted and in the frame of mind in which they are today, refuse to give further aid to the I C A R for purposes of research.

Sir, my next point is this fund and the manner in which it is collected. As I said before, there is no need for provision of a fund. My Honourable friend thinks first of constituting a committee and immediately he feels he has to make it self-sufficient. India has to be self-sufficient, the provinces have to be self-sufficient, every committee that is constituted by the Centre has to be self-sufficient. There is no special and particular merit about this manner for self-sufficiency, and in order to make this committee self-sufficient he devises a fund in a very peculiar manner. I am not either ignoring or denying those charges made against the manner of the collection of this fund by my Honourable friend Mr. Subbarayan. But I will say this. Leave alone the question of harassment, leave alone the question whether six annas per ton is a thing which is very heavy or low, whether the incidence of that tax will be borne by any particular set of people or will be distributed in such infinitesimal small units that it will not be felt at all. But my Honourable friend and his advisers who sit in rooms in the North Block Secretariat realise that they are putting an extra load on the provincial administration, an extra harassment on a type of person who is not accustomed to keep records and furnish returns,— apparently so difficult even to contemplate for people who are sitting out here in Delhi. Some Deputy Secretary who is of an unimaginative frame of mind, who is completely unaware of the realities of the situation, thinks that he can force another link in the system of oppression that is being carried on by administrations in the country in the name of tax collection. And my Honourable friend, thinking of the farmer and his future good, does not realise that it is a positive harassment to a rice mill owner to have to keep accounts and furnish returns of a number of transactions. And let me also tell him that the cess that he proposes is not quite so equitable as he seems to imagine. Sir, I have before me a book published under the auspices of his own department, "Report on the Marketing of Rice in India." It tells me that in Bengal machine-milled rice is 16 per cent of the output, in Madras it is 62 per cent, in the Central Provinces it is 30 per cent, in Bombay it is 55 per cent, in Sind it is 90 per cent, and this varying percentage of machine-milled rice is going to be taxed, and a varying type of burden is going to be cast on the people of various provinces. My Honourable friend thinks it is an equitable tax, a thing which would not cause any hardship and which would be easily collected. If you really want to devise a fund for your pet committee, a committee which will give your department some importance because such a committee has been organised in your department and you want to create more work either for your department or for the future agricultural department which is going to come into being, either find the money from the Finance Department or ask

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the Provincial Government to pay a portion of the expenses to be incurred on this toy in relation to the land revenue that they are getting. In fact, supposing my Government is asked to pay 25 lakhs, for this purpose I would not object. I am not looking at it from the point of view of a person who is interested primarily in the provincial finances as such. If possibly I am in the provincial Assembly, I shall fight tooth and nail before they give 25 lakhs to the Central Government to be wasted on the Secretariat officials in the North and South Blocks. I shall probably ask them to find the money themselves. But speaking from here, it does not appear to be a serious matter. The Government of my province was giving a rebate of 75 lakhs for some years to agriculturists, they have recently done away with it, and if you have to ask them to pay 25 lakhs for this or any other purpose it may not be too much to ask provided you give them some value for the money. But, this committee of 51 people will be liable to be asked whether they are producing some value for money, if the Provincial Government are asked to give a contribution. But as things are Sir Jogendra Singh's pet theory about research is not going to produce anything more in Madras, and we refuse to contribute.

The Honourable Sir Jogendra Singh: Sir, I may point out that in Madras Sir Venkataraman's work on sugar has produced, crores of rupees for this country. He cannot deny that Coimbatore cane has produced crores of rupees, and that research was carried out in the province of my Honourable friend.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: I should like to ask my Honourable friend what relation this has to the point on which I am speaking. In my province we often say,—I hope it will not offend my Muslim friends,—“What relation is Ghulam Kadar to Gokulashtami?” Similarly, what relation has sugar production got to a rice committee? Rice stands on an entirely different footing, it is not a cash crop. And if after hearing me all this time shout at the top of my voice to make the Honourable Member listen and at the end of it all he says something funny which has no relation to the subject, I will say that he has been reading the Ramayana and at the end saying, “What relation was Rama to Seta?”

The Honourable Sir Jogendra Singh: The Honourable Member said that research has produced nothing, and I can quote cases not only from Madras but from other provinces where research on agriculture has produced tangible results. Research on wheat has given 3 to 4 maunds more per acre. Similarly, with regard to other crops also it is well known that by research you can improve seed, you can increase production, you can ascertain fertilizer requirements, and so on. These are the ways by which the food of this country can be improved, and not by merely saying that this cannot be done.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: My Honourable friend has completely misunderstood me. Apparently the language that I speak is not the language that he understands. I have never said that research was wrong, I have never said that research produced nothing. I have continually said that research would produce a lot more, that research would produce more sugarcane, that research would produce more rice, it will produce a better Government if they made research in the capacity of Indians to govern themselves.

Sir F. E. James (Madras European): Perhaps bigger, but not better.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: That is a matter of opinion. It would be true if I were to accept the words of my Honourable friend, Sir Frederick James, the Governments of the past were perhaps better Governments. I do not agree. He and I are not in the same boat, and I certainly will not be in the boat in which he will be if my wishes could be enforced.

So far as this Fund is concerned, I say that the conception is illogical, and the manner of collection is inequitable. It is asking the provinces to bear a burden which they ought not be asked to bear. I am not saying anything against Bengal or any particular provinces, but I say that if you really want a contribution from all provinces, it shall have to bear some relation to the ultimate advantage they will get. If my Honourable friend speaks of sugarcane

I would like to tell him that Madras has not benefited to the extent to which the United Provinces and Bihar have benefited. The benefit in regard to research should go in some equitable proportion province-wise. It is the primary duty of the Provincial Government to look into its food problem. You might be able to allot to them a part of the Fund which you propose to collect, you might be able to take over the surplus from one province and hand it over to the deficit provinces, but the obligation to produce more food and better quality of food and to make the cultivator happy is that of the Provincial Government. This obligation the Provincial Governments have got to discharge, and I say that this Bill is by-passing that obligation. The obligation will remain. This committee will not help the Provincial Governments in any way in fulfilling their obligation. It is a costly toy, and it is you here sitting in the Government of India, which is a thing I object to. Have you approached the Provincial Governments before bringing in this Bill? Has Madras agreed to your taxing the rice millers? Will the Honourable Member or his Secretary get up and say yes or no?

The Honourable Sir Jogendra Singh: Yes, Madras has agreed.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: If Madras has agreed, it would not have agreed if I were there. It has agreed because it is Section 93 province, and it certainly will not agree once the Bill is circulated, once the motion of my Honourable friend Mr. Ranga, is accepted. The people of the province will certainly object to their rice millers paying a tax out of all proportion to the total rice output of the province besides being harassed in so many ways. They will be harassed in the matter of maintaining returns. I can tell this House that I remember very well some time back in the matter of fixing the price of rice on a uniform basis a committee was summoned to meet in Delhi and the provinces were asked to send some representative of rice millowners. I remember the Provincial Government were in a hurry, having no time, and Secretary rang me up, and said 'can you tell me of some rice millowner in Tanjore who could be sent?' I told him that there are not many mills working at the time, as at present due to the shortage of coal and kerosene oil most of the rice millers are not working and it would be very difficult to suggest anybody who could come out here. So I wonder whether they know that they are being taxed most inequitably, because of the fact that certain provinces have not been able to take advantage of the machinery, or they do not have electricity or other facilities for it. We have not been promised that this is going to do something wonderful. In spite of all that my Honourable friend has said I do not think that this Bill is going to achieve something really wonderful in the near future, and I do maintain that if the Provincial Governments have given their assent to the formation of a committee and to the method of collecting fund for it in this manner, they must have done it perfunctorily without any examination, and I know that even a Section 93 Government—as my Government is—is wise enough ordinarily to resent an imposition of additional work on it like the collection of this cess will impose. Sir, the only decent thing the Government can do today is not to persist in trying to make this toy live because Professor Ranga will not in any event be satisfied. It will not satisfy anybody excepting perhaps the feeling of the Honourable Sir Jogendra Singh and Mr. Tyson by reason of the fact that they have given some work to the Legislature. The most decent thing for him to do is to accept Prof. Ranga's motion for circulation, and if it comes back with the peoples blessing go ahead and 'good luck to you'. If it does not, then you are rid of a really bad job. Sir, I support the motion of Professor Ranga.

Mr. Hoosenbhoy A. Lalljee (Bombay Central Division Muhammadan Rural) Sir, in the original motion the date which was fixed was the 14th of November, 1944. Since then we have had some other business and I thought that the 17th of November may be convenient, but I do feel now that it would be better to substitute the words 'before the end of the present Session' With

[Mr Hooseinbhoy A. Lalljee]

the permission of the House my amended amendment would read thus

"That in the original motion for the words '14th November 1944' the words 'before the end of the present Session' be substituted"

Mr. Deputy President (Mr Akhil Chandra Datta): The amendment can be amended only with the consent of the House Is there any objection to the amendment being amended?

Some Honourable Members: No objection

Mr. Hooseinbhoy A. Lalljee: Thank you, Sir After what I have heard from my friends on the opposite side, I must say that the task before me is rather a heavy one, but all the same I do feel that I would be failing in my duty if I did not tell my friends on the opposite side what I feel on this question

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad (United Provinces Southern Divisions Muham-madan Rural) Which is the opposite side

Mr. Hooseinbhoy A. Lalljee: Although I belong to that side, I am sitting on this I will say "my Honourable friends on the other side"

We have been clamouring for years that a large portion of our people do not get a square meal We have been feeling that the health of our people is suffering very much owing to lack of sufficient food The very recent occurrence in Bengal and in other places indicates greater need for foodstuffs in this country

[At this stage, Mr President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) resumed the Chair]

After what we heard last year and the condition that is prevalent in the greater part of India in the South, I did feel that there would be nobody in this

4 P.M. House who would not call upon the Government to take immediate action, whatever that action may be, provided that that action would lead to a little increase of foodstuff My friend Prof Ranga has three main objections First of all, I am sorry to say he considers the sum of Rs 30 lakhs which the Honourable Member wishes to collect at six annas per ton to be too big a sum to be given for research, development, marketing and what not of rice I feel, Sir, that even ordinary industrial concerns, if they really wish to be successful, they must have first of all a research department Just imagine a country like ours not having a research department for rice! And Prof Ranga to say that Rs 24 lakhs in that direction is a heavy burden!

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Guntur cum Nellore Non-Muhammadan Rural) Who is to pay for it? Will the Central Government help us?

Mr. Hooseinbhoy A. Lalljee: I am coming to that It has been made clear by Mr Krishnamachari that the rice seller will pay Prof Ranga says the rice grower will pay If the taxpayer pays I hope the rice grower and rice seller are also included Let us go further and see what it is that you are going to pay From the latest figures that have been supplied, there are altogether 30 million tons of crops out of that 11½ millions are in Bengal and 5 millions in Madras If you calculate at six annas per ton and if you agree to 27 per cent of our produce going through the mills, the contribution of the whole of Madras Presidency will not be more than Rs 5 lakhs and not more than Rs 10 lakhs from Bengal with a population of six crores Can it honestly be said that these sums are too large for these two provinces when we are being told that people are starving? As a matter of fact the Government can very well say that it is not only we but also the popular side who have never carefully looked into the question of agricultural products nor have they brought them definitely before any Legislature as to what steps should be taken to get more food for the people All that we have said is that we have not sufficient food. We have never pressed them to find out ways and means

By that I do not say that the responsibility of the Government is lessened Their responsibility is much more In fact during the Budget Sessions of 1935, 1936 and 1937 I pointedly drew the attention of the Government of India to tell us what they have been doing for the agriculturists and with regard to the

education and health of the people. The Government of India did nothing and has been doing nothing.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Have they been doing it now?

Mr. Hoosenbhoy A. Lalljee: They are not doing it from their own purses But they are attempting to do something from your own monies and with your help. But you have not even done that and even now you do not want any research. At the moment production per acre is three times more in the United States and six times more in Japan than in India. When I speak of production, my friend Prof. Ranga raises another bogey and I have not forgotten it. He says if we have large production what will be the condition of the labourer. In 1937 and 1938 he said that when we had large production we still had to import wheat from Australia, rice from Siam and we asked for protection. Therefore we should not try and produce more.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Who said that? No. Question!

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) Order, order. Let the Honourable Member go on.

Mr. Hoosenbhoy A. Lalljee: We did import rice and wheat and we did impose duties against those imports because our agriculturists did not get sufficient for their production. But what is the reason? How can Australia and Siam, after paying freight, sell in my country, in Madras cheaper rice and dump rice against my own produce? The reason is that my production from my land is half and one-sixth of other countries, and so long as the cost of production in this country is high this state of affairs must continue.

Then, Sir, Prof. Ranga brought up another thing. If you produce more what is the labour going to do? They will starve. That is not right. If you produce double the quantity, the cost of rice at Rs. 28-0 before the war may come down to Rs. 18-0. True if you use good manure, tractors and fertilizers the cost will be slightly more but the yield will be 50 to 100 per cent more, and in that case having brought down the cost by 50 per cent you will be able to avoid all imports and be able to feed your people with cheap rice. With regard to the future of the labourer, don't you think that if you produce double the quantity you will need more labour to carry those things?

Prof. N. G. Ranga: You are labouring in vain!

Mr. Hoosenbhoy A. Lalljee: Why?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) The Honourable Member had better address the Chair.

Mr. Hoosenbhoy A. Lalljee: We may not be able to employ more labour because of using tractors and other up-to-date implements but he forgets that the more you produce the more labour you will require for it. I do feel that we have come to a stage when we must point out clearly to Government that this condition of malnutrition cannot be tolerated. What is Rs. 5 lakhs or Rs. 10 lakhs to Madras or Bengal when lakhs of people have died and many lakhs are in a pitiable condition of existence. Let me remind my friends from Madras of the many more crores of rupees that they are now paying for their rice on account of the present shortage. I believe there are people who have made crores, simply because the Rangoon rice was not available. Please consider that aspect of the question and do not only look to the rupees, annas and pice side of the matter. Five lakhs with the consent of the people, is it a great thing?

Then, Sir, he says that our Government has got the revenue on the value of the crops. If you have not made your Government realise that it is much better to produce more, reduce the cost of production and sell it cheaper, it is not somebody else's fault. Better late than never. I do not say that the Government of India are justified in bringing it now. They ought to have brought it long ago, not only regarding rice but also wheat and other products. My friends mentioned cotton. Certainly India has made crores in the supply of cotton, by having long-staple cotton. We are today able to produce finer cloth than what we used to import. Is not that a saving? Is not clothing as important as food? With regard to sugar, we were pay-

[Mr Hoosembhoy A Lalljee]

ing 70 crores out of India when we had no sugar. With research today India is the country which produces the largest quantity of sugar of all the countries in the world. This has been the result of research.

Then, Sir, we have got to draw the attention of the Department to the real wants of the agriculturists. Very recently we have come to know that during 1935 to 1938 we imported manure from 80,000 tons to 60,000 tons annually but during 1940—44 we have not imported anything, as if it was not needed. All the time the Grow More Food campaign has been going on. The figures I have quoted are customs figures. Then with regard to implements, after a great deal of trouble (all credit to the Agricultural Department) they have found out that the agriculturists want implements and steel to the extent of 36,000 tons a year. When the agriculturists began asking for that they were not able to get 6,000 tons of steel. Yet, Sir, we will grudge this 24 lakhs of rupees and say that we must go on in this condition for sometime longer. I feel very much that it is high time and I do appeal to my friends on the other side that we ought not to take the blame on ourselves by delaying even by a minute the research and development of agriculture, specially in relation to rice, on which we depend so much. With these words I do hope my friends will seriously consider the amendment that I have moved and I think that they ought to leave all other work and sit on the Select Committee and do something to show to the Government that we are much more eager than they.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) I think the Honourable Member's amendment has been put to the House?

Mr. Hoosembhoy A. Lalljee: With the permission of the House I got a little change made.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) Has the Honourable Member moved it?

Mr. Hoosembhoy A. Lalljee: I moved it yesterday yes, it was put to the House.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum (North-West Frontier Province General) Mr President, the speech of my Honourable friend, Mr Hoosembhoy Lalljee, indicated that the Government was going to do something really good, beneficial and useful for the producer as well as for the consumer of rice in this country, and that it is the elected parties on this side which stood between the Government and this very laudable object which they profess to have in view. That if only we cease opposing this move of the Government something wonderful will happen, there will be no shortage of rice, and hunger will disappear from this land altogether. This is not a true picture of the situation, and all that we on this side of the House are concerned with is this that we are anxious that on an important measure like this,—which deals with the production and the marketing of rice and research work which has to be carried on in connection with the improvement of rice production in India,—on a measure like this, which deals with a crop on which a very large number of people in this country depend for their very existence,—such a proposal as the one before us should be sent round and circulated for eliciting public opinion, before we sit down to legislate on it. The idea is not to delay the thing, the idea is not to whittle down the thing. The idea is merely to have public opinion on a very important measure, which affects so many people in this country.

Mr. Hoosembhoy A. Lalljee: At a time when lakhs are starving!

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: My Honourable friend says that when lakhs are starving, we are trying to delay this measure. May I know from the Government of India, if they were absolutely ignorant of the fact that long before the war began, a small country like Japan was producing something like 8,000 lbs paddy to an acre, while we in India had only 800 lbs to our credit? May I know whether the Government of India were ignorant of the fact that a very large number of people in this country depended for their very existence on the

import of rice from Burma? The political separation of Burma carried with it the possibility of Burma becoming economically independent, setting up customs barriers against us, and refusing to send any rice to this country. What were the Government of India doing, while we were absolutely on the brink of starvation, and face to face with a famine which ultimately overtook Bengal last year and lakhs and lakhs of people had to die before some sort of sense entered the head of this Government of India and they began to think of improving the production of rice in this country? Therefore the charge of delay cannot be laid at the door of the Opposition, but Government is guilty of culpable neglect in having ignored the interests of the producers of rice, in having altogether ignored the fact that we in this country were deficient in the matter of rice production, and had to depend on Burma and other outside sources for feeding the millions of people in this country. Therefore this motion is not a dilatory one, but it is with a view to ascertaining the wishes of the people who are vitally interested in the rice industry.

Then we want to be sure of another thing. It has become the fashion for the Government of India to come forward with a proposal to set up a certain committee demanding some more money. It may be a tax on cotton, some tax on coffee, some tax on lac or some other commodity, and the object is really very laudable. They want to improve the state of things in this country as far as production, marketing, distribution and the rest of it is concerned. But we on this side of the House are really not sure that the Government of India has at all succeeded in achieving the objects for which previous measures similar to the one now before the House were passed. We are not sure that beyond setting up a committee, beyond bringing together a number of people on that committee, and beyond giving them some travelling allowance, salaries, etc., whether any money was at all left for purposes, which this particular Bill professes to have in view.

Having said this much, I shall now turn to another little grievance of mine, viz., that while the Honourable Member in charge of this Bill, who incidentally happens to be a next door neighbour, has set up a committee of 51, in which he has taken very good care to include all sorts of interests and some interests which should not have been there,—he has altogether ignored my province in the matter of representation on this committee. Sir, I want to inform the Honourable Member that the Frontier Province cannot be ignored like this and that he will have to make provision for including representatives not only of the Provincial Government, not only of the Department of Agriculture but also of the producers of rice in that part of the country. In the matter of numbers, and in the matter of acres under cultivation, we may not be able to compare favourably with the other provinces of India. But I think the Honourable Member is well aware that even though we cannot, in the matter of numbers and acres, compare favourably with the other large provinces in India, what we lack in quantity we certainly more than make up for in the quality of rice which we produce and the quality of men we have in that province. For some time there has been a tendency on the part of the Government of India, and that tendency still lurks in their brains, that when the question of reforms came, the Frontier Province was ignored at the time of the Munfo-Morley reforms; then again in 1919 when another instalment of reforms came my province was ignored, but then in the year 1930 the Government of India was faced with a very serious rebellion in my part of the country. What was the cry which rallied the people to the cause of that rebellion? The cry was that the Frontier Province must be treated absolutely on terms of equality and on par with the rest of the Indian provinces, and it was to acquire that status which was rightly our due that we rebelled against the authority constituted by law; I therefore inform the Honourable Members that if the Government of India still persist in that attitude, we have every right to retaliate, and we will be able to show that we can give a much better account of ourselves than we gave in the year 1930. As the grievances which I have ventilated and voiced are just grievances, I am sure that I will have the support of all the

[Mr. Abdul Qayyum]

elected Members of this House, and I will make it impossible for Government to carry this Bill through, unless they put right this very just grievance . . .

The Honourable Sir Jogendra Singh: I will certainly put it right

Mr. Abdul Qayyum: There are one or two things more which I shall refer to in passing and then I will conclude my speech. There are two schools of thought in this world—one school of thought which believes in private ownership of the sources of production, and another school of thought which believes in communism or the common ownership of all the sources of production. In this country also people are divided into two camps and there is a sort of intellectual war going on, though the physical war has not yet begun between these two vital schools of thought. Now, I want the Government of India to start an experiment right away, by buying up all the waste land which can be brought under rice production in the various states and provinces and to set up big farms, experimental farms which will be owned by the state and the benefit of which will go directly to the people in the form of lesser taxation, more food, and freedom from hunger, from which Bengal has terribly suffered in recent years. Let us therefore experiment with State-owned rice farms side by side with the present system which we have, whereby private property is recognised by law, and very powerful vested interests are entrenched in this country. Lastly I must tell the Honourable Member that we have decided to support the motion for circulation which has been moved by Mr. Essak Sarit, that is, circulation by the 28th of February 1945, and I hope that he will accept it. There is no desire to sabotage this Bill.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh (Nagpur Division Non-Muhammadian): Sir, the House must be quite familiar with the maxim—No taxation without representation. There is great political wisdom in it. Similarly there is great wisdom in the maxim that there should be no representation without taxation. In the constitution of the Race Committee, the bodies which have been given representation do not contribute a single farthing and they have been given very large representation. Persons who have no responsibility to contribute are not likely to take much interest in what happens. Very likely they will be very careless with the funds which would be kept at their disposal. It is therefore very necessary that if you wish to constitute a committee those elements which constitute the committee should be responsible to contribute very largely for the fund. The scheme of the fund at present is merely to collect cess from the millers. The millers may have their representation. The growers are vitally interested and they should have representation, but what poor representation they have got! The man who produces rice and who labours day and night and takes all possible risks and provides you with food—he has been given merely 14 out of 51 seats, while persons who do not contribute a single farthing have been given a very large percentage. Why should the chambers of commerce be there? Why should the Provincial Governments be allowed to nominate persons when they do not contribute anything for the fund? I therefore say and lay emphasis on it, that unless these bodies which are proposed to form part of this committee contribute funds according to the representation that this Government proposes to give them, they should not be on this Committee.

Another thing which I wish to say is this—the method of representation of the growers is really faulty. You do not allow persons who are interested in the welfare of the agriculturist to come in the ordinary way: you have made provision here for instance—14 persons representing the growers to be nominated by the Government. Would a person like my friend Prof. Ranga be nominated by any Provincial Government?

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir (Bombay City: Non-Muhammadian Urban): Will he contribute towards this?

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: But he is a grower. He is not merely an outsider who comes here and gets on this body without any responsibility and says "I

will spend the money as I like." He is a grower. Similarly a person like me has no chance of getting nominated by any Government—there are many persons who work for the welfare of the agriculturist, but because they are agitating they are unpopular with the Government and such persons have no chance of getting nominated by any Government. Any person who is agitating constantly and has suffered as my friend Prof. Ranga has suffered in the cause of the agriculturist has no possibility of getting nominated on this body by any Government. Therefore it is not only about the number that I complain, but I complain as regards the method by which these persons have to come on this body. That is the principal and main objection as regards the constitution of this committee.

Now, if you follow my idea that you will give representation to such bodies or such persons who contribute then certainly there will be no objection to the method of collecting funds. You are creating a fund. Why do you lay emphasis on the cess merely? That particular clause should be amended. Therefore I say that if this method of composing a body is to continue, then this Bill might be given the go-bye, but if, as I say, there are chances of improving, then I would certainly go to a certain extent and a great extent in supporting the motion for circulation to elicit public opinion which has been moved by Mr. Essak Sait. I cannot say that Prof. Ranga's motion for circulation is a wise one having regard to the circumstances, there I have my difference of opinion with him. It is really a very dilatory motion. It refers to 31st January 1946. We have not heard any arguments as to why the objects we have in view cannot be achieved by the 28th February, 1945. As a matter of fact, on several grounds, on matters of principle, he has expressed strong objection to this Bill and I suppose he would very much like this Bill to be dropped. I very strongly object to this Bill being dropped, because our experiences are such that we must grow more food. More food is needed now and hereafter. I therefore strongly support this motion about the 28th February for eliciting public opinion. I hope that Government will show its willingness to accept this amendment which is a very wise one. The matter is not postponed to a very long date and by that time you will get the information from the public which is very essential. You are governing many of the provinces under section 93 and you cannot have the views of the public as reflected in the popular Legislatures. It is therefore very necessary to have this Bill circulated and I hope that the Bill will come back with opinions on the 28th February, 1945.

Mr. J. D. Tyson (Secretary, Department of Education, Health and Lands) May I intervene to say that we, on our side, are willing to agree to Mr. Essak Sait's motion for circulation for a short date. I do not want to stifle discussion as the House is obviously enjoying itself but we are agreeable to circulation with the date 28th February, 1945. It is only fair to tell the House what our attitude is.

Mr. President (The Honourable Su Abdur Rahim) In view of this statement, I should like to know whether the House will wish to continue the debate.

Several Honourable Members: Yes.

Mr. Muhammad Ashar Ali (Lucknow and Fyzabad Divisions, Muhammadan Rural) It is a great pity that Government takes the view that the opinions expressed on this Bill are inimical to the Bill and that we on this side are opposed to the principles of the Bill. It is nothing like that. The motive for opposition is not for the sake of opposition. My friends on the other side always press the point that we on this side are taking more of the time of the House by opposing all measures, not on very good grounds. I am only telling the truth when I say that today Government has been forced to see the wisdom of the opposition and the arguments that have been advanced from this side. It is only because of that that Mr. Tyson has got up and made a statement agreeing to the circulation motion of my friend Mr. Essak Sait. Those friends of ours on the Government Benches should not think that we are opposing the measures they bring forward in any spirit of antagonism. We are always prepared to support anything which is for the good of the country. It must be

[Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali]

remembered that we on this side are more interested in the people of the country and their welfare than the Government servants who are paid servants. We as the representatives of the people claim the right to inform the Government of the shortcomings of every Bill which they bring forward and we do that only for safeguarding the interests of the people of this country. It is a very sad index of the mind of those members who are on the opposition side or the side of Government, who impute such bad motives to this side of the House.

When Mr. Hoosenbhoy Lalljee spoke, he said something which we do not consider to be worthy of a representative of the people. He said 'If you do this and that, if you produce' and so on. There is a great 'if' in everything that Mr. Lalljee said and if that 'if' is to be followed by us and the Government what will happen. He says the country will be benefited. Certainly the country will be benefited but we object to the methods by which these objects are sought to be achieved. We know that the Government wishes to make us to agree to a cess which is to be imposed on the people of India. We know that the way in which the money will be spent will not be fair and it is for this reason that the 'if' and similar conditional phrases do not appeal to us.

The question before us is whether we could produce more rice or wheat at some future time. The present question is how to get more food for the people who are famishing. It is not a question of research. Research may take hundreds of years but the question is how to produce food urgently for the people who are dying of starvation now. People are dying like anything in the country and still you say 'If you produce, if you do this, that and the other' and so on. How is it possible to translate these conditional phrases into action, when we find that there is no food at all? Rice has stopped coming from Burma and other places from which it used to come. If we start research today, may I ask Government whether it will be possible to complete it in three or four years? The war may last for a year or two more. You have got a post-war plan. Why do you not include this in it and why do you want to tax the people? My charge today is that these taxes are imposed by the backdoor. When the time comes for the presentation of the Budget, you impose taxes of every kind. The producer, the cultivator and the industrialist have all been taxed to the limit which can be imagined in this country. Every year, the Government comes forward with proposals for setting up this committee and that committee and what is the cumulative effect of all these taxes on the cultivator? It is very easy to say that one or two pice does not matter but who is ultimately to bear the burden? It is the poor man, it is the cultivator who has to pay all these taxes in the end. Those people who own mills will not be taxed in any way, it is the producer and the consumer who will be taxed and who will be burdened by this taxation. The industrialist who has got the hulling mill will simply charge his profit from the producer and the consumer. So, we have to consider this question. It is not an easy matter that we should let it go in such a hasty manner as my friend Mr. Lalljee or the Government wants it. What I say is that this is not the time for the Government to make experiments. It is time for action. This is not the time for taxation, but it is the time for you to be liberal in extending your help to the cultivators, consumers and everyone who is in need.

Sir, there is no paucity of money. Government can print any number of notes at any time they like. So, why do you want this tax to be imposed at this moment? Is it only for experimental purposes? I submit that the time for experiments is past. It is time for you to help the cultivator, the consumer and the producer.

Sir, the objects which are mentioned in this Bill are very laudable. They are undoubtedly in every way high-sounding. They say that we will have research, we will have development and we will have this and that. But this is more a question of the production of rice, the marketing of rice and the development of rice, but every province is not a rice producing province.

Besides the various provinces have got their own systems. They have got their own Agricultural Departments and what are those Agricultural Departments of the different provinces doing? My submission is that it was the duty of the Agricultural Department of every province to have set up such a committee before the war began or about 50 years back. They have failed in their duty and today the Government wants to supplement the works which the Provincial Governments and their Agricultural Departments should have done by imposing cumulative taxes everywhere and every time through this House. My submission is that the Cotton Committee, of course, made a very great experiment and the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research is also trying its best to have experiments. The Honourable Member also said that he has saved the country from the inroads of locusts. I am sure next year when we come here for the autumn Session there might be a cess for the prevention of locusts. So, this is not the time to make such experiments. It is time when you should have every sympathy and every kind of consideration for feeding the Indian people and bring more food from outside. It is not the time to impose taxation and cesses.

I am really sorry that Government is not taking advantage of co-operative banking which was at one time helped by the Government for a very long time and very good results were secured. I submit that even now the Provincial Governments could take up this business of marketing and producing of the rice through the co-operative societies and expand the business of co-operative societies. If the Provincial banks in all the provinces by the help either of the Provincial Governments or the Central Government could help the cultivators, then you will see how the crops will improve. It is very easy to say to my Honourable friend Mr. Lalljee that if we get fertilizers and this and that, we will get very good results. But is it possible to get all these things at present? We know the shipping conditions that are prevailing today outside the country. There is nothing in our hands. If there were a National Government, I am sure we would have done things for the benefit of the country, but at present we are helpless. As I said before, the resources of the agriculturist have now been practically tapped. I would say that it is an exploded theory now that the agriculturist is making money. Does the Government know what the agriculturist has to pay for oil, cloth and for ever so many things that he has to buy? He cannot even afford to buy proper *kafan* for the dead bodies of his relations. This is the condition of the cloth in the market.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim). The Honourable Member had better leave all this.

Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali: I simply want the Government to provide.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim). The Honourable Member need not dilate on constitutional questions.

Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali: Now, Sir, I come to the point as to how these hulling mills work. I find that in my own province there is no paper to be had. Even the Patwaries of the villages and the clerks in the Collectorate say that there is no paper even to give the receipts from the landholders to the tenants, which is the incumbent duty under the Rent Act. This is the paucity of the paper and still you want that these hulling mills should have a regular office of their own with books. They must employ somebody to write their accounts. The section says that he should provide a register and produce it before the Collector of the district every month. Is it feasible? There may be so many hulling mills in a district or in a town. What a great difficulty they will have in getting the necessary paper. But the Government does not consider these hardships of these people. It is very easy for me to say in this House that I would like to subscribe to this cess, but you have to remember the difficulties of the hulling machine keeper. It would be for him to provide paper for the registers and then take them to the authorities of the District. It all shows you cannot imagine the difficulties of the poor people. Besides, all of them are not illiterate and highly educated in accounts. These

[Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali]

It is for this reason that my honourable friend Mr. Essak Sait has brought his amendment that the Bill be circulated.

Sir, there is another point in this Bill. I see that in clause 12 provision is made for the assessment of the Collector to be made final. I ask Honourable Members who have to pay income-tax whether in case of wrong assessment, there is no provision for appeal first to the Department, and then to the Tribunal. There is no provision in this Bill against the decision of the Collector.

Babu Bajnath Bajoria (Marwari Association Indian Commerce) There is provision in sub-clause (2) of clause 12 to apply to the Central Government.

Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali: I know there is such a provision, but there is no appeal to a Civil Court. Just imagine the position of the owner of a mill being dragged to the seat of the Central Government to get the Collector's assessment altered. He has to produce the papers before the Department to prove his case. Is that a feasible course? It may be said that he can send the papers by post. Everyone knows what happens to papers and letters sent by post. It will be incumbent upon him to come to Delhi and prefer his appeal. If he is a literate man, he can draft his application himself, otherwise he will have to engage a lawyer for pleading his case. All these things mean extra cost and inconvenience to the poor owner of the mill. These are my reasons for sending this Bill for circulation. Of course, it is left to the Government to get this Bill passed with the majority that they may command in this House. They can pass this measure by hook or crook, but I am sure, it will be the cause of great grievance to the poor people. These are not days when Government should aggravate the trouble which the people are already undergoing. These are days for conciliation. I therefore ask the Government to get this Bill circulated for eliciting public opinion.

Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta (Chittagong and Rajshahi Divisions Non-Muhammadan Rural) Sir, at this lag end of the discussion, I should not like to take up much of the time of the House. I welcome the principle of research. There are no two opinions about it. We also welcome the principle of taking steps to improve the methods of cultivation and so on. So, Sir, we welcome the principle of the Bill. At the same time, allow me to say that I cannot induce myself to support the Bill as it stands in the present form. Almost all the provisions of the Bill are unacceptable to me. I shall say at once that I support the motion for circulation and I do so in the hope that after circulation, after receipt of opinions from all quarters, the Bill will be improved and will be acceptable. May I invite the attention of the House to clause 16 which gives the Central Government the power to dissolve the Committee. Now, Sir, I consider this provision to be very extraordinary. The clause says

"The Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, declare that, with effect from such date as may be specified in the notification, the Committee shall be dissolved."

This is one provision in clause 16. Another provision is

"And on the making of such declaration all funds and other property vested in the Committee shall vest in His Majesty for the purposes of the Central Government."

Then follows another provision which is still more unacceptable:

"and this Act shall be deemed to have been repealed."

So, Sir, the power of repealing this Act, if passed, is given to the Central Government when they think it fit to do so. As soon as the Central Government issues a notification dissolving this Committee, the funds go and the Act is repealed. Here is a Bill which is put forward before the Legislature and the Legislature is asked to enact this legislation, and at the same time power is taken by the Central Government to repeal the Act. Ordinarily according to the first principles of jurisprudence, this power of repeal cannot be given to the executive. When an Act is passed by the Legislature, the power of repealing it must be exercised by the Legislature itself and not by the executive. This is a very obnoxious provision in the Bill which I am afraid has not received proper attention at the hands of Honourable Members.

preceded me. Having regard to the nature of the Committee, we can well imagine a time may come, when all research work will have been finished, when all improvements in cultivation, production and marketing will have been adopted and when there will be no room for further improvement in this direction. There may come a time when such a Committee will be unnecessary. But certainly the power of dissolving the Committee cannot be given to the Central Government. I have not gone into the question very carefully, but I am told that a provision for dissolution of a Committee like this can only be given to the Committee itself. If for instance, three-fourth number of Members of a Committee by a Resolution decide that there is no further utility for the Committee and that it be dissolved, in that case, it will be dissolved, but not at the caprice of the Central Government. So, Sir, this Committee is really a creature of the Central Government. There are many other provisions which make the Committee a creature of the Government. For instance under clause 7(2).

"The Central Government shall appoint a person to be the Secretary of the Committee and such person shall be paid by the Committee such salary and such allowances as may be fixed by the Central Government."

The position is this that the Secretary will act under the orders of the Committee, but he will be appointed by the Central Government. His salary and allowances will be fixed by the Central Government. In view of this, the Committee becomes an absolute non-entity.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) As it is 5 o'clock the Honourable Member may continue his speech tomorrow.

Before adjourning the House I should like to mention that tomorrow between 10-30 and 1 P.M. there is going to be election of members to serve on the Indian Coconut Committee, and I must point out that section 4(g) of this Act (X of 1944), relating to this Committee provides as follows:

"six other persons of whom two shall be persons elected from among themselves by the elected Members of the Legislative Assembly of the Central Legislature."

So the election will be by Members who have been elected to this Assembly and the other Members cannot take part in that election.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Thursday, the 16th November, 1944

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Thursday, 16th November, 1944

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber of the Council House at Eleven of the Clock, Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) in the Chair.

MEMBER SWORN:

Sir Charles MacIvor Grant Ogilvie, C S I, C B E. (Secretary Defence Department).

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(a) ORAL ANSWERS.

ADDITIONAL DUTY FOR PROGRAMME STAFF IN ALL-INDIA RADIO, DELHI.

452. *Sardar Sant Singh: Will the Honourable Member for Information and Broadcasting please state if it is a fact that Programme Staff in the All-India Radio, Delhi, are on duty from 10-30 A.M. to 5 P.M. daily? If so, is it a fact that the members of the staff are put on duty in addition to the daily duty and in continuation of the same from 5 P.M. to 1 A.M. in turn? If so, will the Honourable Member please state how he justifies continuous duty for 14½ hours? Will he consider the proposal of giving a member off day, whose turn faces from 5 P.M. to 1 A.M.

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: The programme staff of the Delhi Station of All India Radio, like members of other offices of the Government of India in Delhi, attend office from 10-30 A.M. to 6-00 P.M. daily except on Saturdays when their duty hours are from 10-30 A.M. to 1-30 P.M. Each member of the staff has to take, in addition, transmission duties for periods which range from ½ hours to 7 hours once or twice a week. The question of affording relief to the staff has been under the consideration of Government for some time and extra staff for the purpose is now being provided.

Sardar Sant Singh: May I know from the Honourable Member if it is a fact that some members of the staff have to be on duty for 14½ hours?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: I am not aware, but I will enquire.

Mr. Lalchand Navarai: May I know from the Honourable Member if they are paid for the over-time work that they do at night?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: I should like the Honourable Member to put a separate question on that, which I will reply. I have not got the information here.

INCREASE IN PAY AND ALLOWANCES OF BRITISH TROOPS.

453. *Sardar Sant Singh: (a) Will the War Secretary please state if it is a fact that large increases in pay and allowances of British troops have been made recently? If so, what are these increases?

(b) What is the percentage of these increases with the present total pay and allowances drawn by each rank?

(c) Which authority sanctioned these increases? Was the Government of India consulted in the matter? If so, was the increase agreed to by the Government of India?

(d) Who bears the increased cost—Government of India or His Majesty's Government?

(e) What is the total burden imposed on Indian finances by this increase?

(f) Why was not the Indian Legislature consulted in the matter?

(g) Do Government propose to represent to His Majesty's Government that British troops in India be replaced by Indian troops by recalling the latter from overseas services and sending the British troops to Italy and other places?

(h) Will the Government represent to His Majesty's Government that the additional cost of these increases should be borne by the British Exchequer on the ground that British troops in India are being retained mostly for Imperial

purposes rather than for the defence of India when Japanese menace to India is almost over?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: (a) and (b). I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply given to part (a) of Mr. K. C. Neogy's starred question No. 92 on the 3rd November 1944.

(c), (d), (e) and (h) His Majesty's Government with whom, as the authority responsible for the British troops, the ultimate decision rests, sanctioned these increases. The views of the Government of India were communicated to, and considered by, His Majesty's Government and the final decision was taken after such consideration. I regret I am unable to disclose the recommendations made by the Government of India, but certain financial issues arising from His Majesty's Government's decision are engaging their attention in consultation with His Majesty's Government. I would add that the ground suggested in (h) is mistaken in fact.

(f) Because questions of this nature are always dealt with by the Executive Government.

(g) No, Sir.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: What is the answer to part (e)?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: I have given the answer to part (e) along with (c), (d) and (h).

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Will the Honourable Member give the figure of increased burden on the Indian exchequer because of the increase of pay to British Troops in India?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: I have said that certain financial issues arising from His Majesty's Government's decision are engaging the attention of Government, and until a decision is reached I cannot say what the burden on Indian revenue will be.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I take it that the question under consideration is as to what portion of the burden of increase is to be borne by the Indian exchequer and what portion by the British exchequer?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: I think I have made my meaning clear by saying that certain financial issues arising from His Majesty's Government's decision are engaging attention of Government in consultation with His Majesty's Government. That must involve the question as to what extent the Government of India should bear the burden.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I know whether they have not already come to any decision as to what amount is to be borne by the Indian exchequer?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: That question is engaging the attention of the Government of India.

Sardar Sant Singh: With regard to part (h) of the question, may I know if the Government of India will consider the question of paying the British troops in India only as much as His Majesty's Government are paying to the Indian troops serving overseas?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: Will the Honourable Member repeat his question, I could not follow?

Sardar Sant Singh: I will explain. Indian troops are serving overseas and their cost, which is met by His Majesty's Government, is less than what the Indian exchequer has to bear on account of the British troops serving in India. There are two methods of adjusting this burden. One is to direct the Indian troops to come back to India so that the burden on the Indian revenue will be decreased, and the other is to pay the British troops in India only as much as our Indian troops are being paid overseas. May I know if the Government of India is considering that aspect of the question?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: No, Sir.

Sardar Sant Singh: May I know why?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: I will explain the position. During the last Budget discussion, the Honourable the Finance Member made a statement on this point. That statement runs thus:

"The distribution of the total forces available to the United Nations between the various theatres of war is governed entirely by operational needs and availability of shipping

The desirability, from various points of view, of bringing back to India the Indian troops at present serving in overseas theatres is fully realised and constantly borne in mind, but, as I have already stated, its feasibility is governed by the exigencies of the war situation as a whole."

I have nothing to add to that

Sardar Sant Singh: I am not asking from the point of view of war operations. My question is entirely from the financial point of view. Why should the Indian tax-payer bear the additional cost when the same can be saved by bringing back the Indian troops to India and releasing the British troops who are at present serving in India?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: Because the British troops are required for the local defence of India.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: May I know whether the Government of India have any voice in determining the number of Indian troops that may have to be sent overseas for operational purposes, and the number of British troops that may have to be stationed in India for these purposes?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: Yes, Sir. The Government of India is consulted.

Mr. Hooseinbhoy A. Lalljee: If the British troops are here for the defence of India, what are the Indian troops in the United Kingdom for?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: As I have already said, the distribution of the total forces available to the United Nations between the various theatres of war is governed entirely by operational needs and the availability of shipping.

Mr. Hooseinbhoy A. Lalljee: My question is, if the British troops are stationed in India for the protection of this country, for what purpose are the Indian troops serving outside India?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: It is one war, Sir.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Next question

BASIC PAY AND ALLOWANCES TO INDIAN AND BRITISH SOLDIERS.

454. *Sardar Sant Singh: Will the War Secretary please give the following information to the House

(i) the basic pay which an Indian soldier received on the 1st October, 1939 and 1st October, 1944 and the basic pay which his British colleague received on the same dates;

(ii) the total sum of all allowances paid to each on these dates;

(iii) the basic pay which the various grades of Indian Officers received on the 1st October, 1939 and 1st October, 1944, and the same as was paid to their British colleagues on these dates; and

(iv) the total sum of all allowances paid to each of them on these dates?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: Statements giving the required information have been laid on the table of the House.

STATEMENT IN REPLY TO PART (i).

Basic pay of B. O. Rs. enlisted on or after 26th October, 1925 and Indian soldiers on 1st October 1939 and 1st October, 1944.

Ranks	Indian Ranks		Ranks	British Ranks	
	Basic pay on 1st October 1939.	Basic pay on 1st October 1944		Basic pay on 1st October 1939	Basic pay on 1st October 1944
	Rs. p. m.	Rs. p. m.		Rs. p. m.	Rs. p. m.
Subedar-Major	*250	*250-15-310	W. O. I.	273 12	296 9
Subedar	130-10-160	140-10-180	W. O. II. (R. Q. M. S.)	228 2	250 15
Jamadar	75-5-100	80-5-105	S/Sergeant	182 8	205 5
Havildar	25	27	Sergeant	126 14	159 11
Naik	22	24	Corporal	91 4	124 14
L/Naik	18	20	L/Corporal	74 2	125 8
Septy	16	18	Private	45 10	68 7

*Includes personal allowance at Rs. 50 per mensem.

STATEMENT IN REPLY TO PART (II)
Total allowances received by Indian and British troops on 1st October 1939 and 1st October, 1944.

British Other Ranks		V. C. Oa. and I. O. Ra.		On 1st October, 1939		On 1st October, 1944.	
Ranks	On 1st October, 1939	Ra. p.m.	Ranks	G. S./Profy. pay	Def. Expt. pay	Battle Total	Expt. pay
(1) Separation allowance.							
W. Oa., S/Sgt. and Sgts.	5 10 0	18 0 0	Risaldar Major/Subedar Major	..	20 16 36	..	22 21 43
L/Sgt. and Cpls.	8 7 0	18 0 0	Risaldar/Subedar	..	20 16 36	..	22 21 43
L/Cpl. and Ptes.	11 4 0	18 0 0	Jemadar	..	12 9 21	..	14 14
Note.—Separation allowance is admissible in cases if separation is due to the exigencies of the service.							
(14) Family Allowances							
All ranks, Wife							
Each child up to a 10	30	86	Def./Jemadar	..	1 9 6 16	5(e)	3 11 11
Each child of three	136	136	On promotion	..	1 9 6 16	5	3 11 11
Each child above a 5	5	45	With 1 year's service as n.c.o.	..	1 9 6 16	5	3 11 11
total of three.			With 2 years' service as n.c.o.	..	1 9 6 16	5	3 11 11
			With 3 years' service as n.c.o.	..	1 9 6 16	5	3 11 11
Note.—The allowance at the above rates is admissible if families are in India. In the case of families in U. K., the allowance is issuable at Home rates.							
Nest.							
			On promotion	..	1 9 6 16	5(e)	3 11 11
			With 1 year's service as n.c.o.	..	1 9 6 16	5	3 11 11
			With 2 years' service as n.c.o.	..	1 9 6 16	5	3 11 11
			L./Nest	..	1 5 3 11-8	5	3 11 11
Saver/Sevoy							
			On enrolment	..	1 5 3 9	..	3 7 8
			After 6 months' service	..	1 5 3 9	1 3	3 7 8
			After 1 year's service	..	1 5 3 11-8	3-8	3 7 8
(44) Post-war credits—6d. per day (Rs. 11-6-0 per man) for each. B. O. R.							
Note.—Post-war credits will be issued on discharge after the war.							
(46) State allowances at 6d. per day.—The qualifying allowance made by soldiers before they are eligible for marriage allowance has been reduced by 6d. per day (Rs. 11-6-0 p. m.) and is paid by the State.							

(a) With one year's service.

Note.—1. Batta is admissible while Indian ranks are on field service.
2. Expectation allowance is admissible when Indian ranks serve overseas.
3. Deferred pay is issued on discharge, retirement, etc., to I. O. Ra.

NOTE.—(a) With one year's service.
 1. Batta is admissible while Indian ranks are on field service.
 2. Ex gratia allowance is admissible when Indian ranks serve overseas.
 3. Deferred pay is issued on discharge, retirement, etc., to I. O. Ra.

**STATEMENT IN REPLY TO PART (iii).
Rates of basic pay of Indian Officers and of British Officers on 1st October, 1939 and 1st October, 1944.**

	Indian Officers			British Officers		
	1st October 1939	1st October 1944	1st October 1944	1st October 1939	1st October 1944	1st October 1944
	Single or married	Single or married	Single or married	Single or married	Single or married	Single or married
	Ra. p. m.	Ra. p. m.	Ra. p. m.	Ra. p. m.	Ra. p. m.	Ra. p. m.
2/Lt.	300	2/Lt.	370	450	2/Lt.	385
Lieutenant	350	Lieutenant	410	490	Lieutenant	435
Lt. after 3 years and 9 months' service	400	Lt. (3)	440	520	Lt. (3)	470
		Lt. (6)	450	520	Lt. (7)	505
Captain	450	Captain	480	610	Captain	555
Capt. after 2 years' service as such	500	Capt. after 3 years' paid service	500	630	Capt. (3)	555
Capt. after 4 years' service as such	550	as such.	500	630		580
Capt. after 6 years' service as such	600	Captain (11)	530	660	Captain (10)	655
		Captain (14)	620	750	Captain (16)	765
Capt. after 8 years' service as such	650	Major	765	850	Major	915
Major	800	Major (22)	865	960	Major (22)	1,035
Lt.-Col.	1,000	Lt.-Col.	1,000	1,145	Lt.-Col.	1,225

STARTED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Sardar Sant Singh: May I ask the Honourable Member what was the proportion between the basic pay of Indian soldier and Indian officer, and British soldier and British officer in 1939, and what is the proportion today?

Mr. G. M. Trivedi: I think my Honourable friend will find all the information in the statements which I have laid on the table of the House today.

INCREASE IN PAY AND ALLOWANCES OF INDIAN TROOPS.

455. *Sardar Sant Singh: Will the War Secretary please state if any increase in the pay and allowances of Indian Soldiers and Officers have been made since the 4th September, 1939? If so, what are the scales of these increases?

Mr. G. M. Trivedi: The answer to the first part is in the affirmative. As regards the latter part, statements giving the required information have been laid on the table of the House.

Increases made in the pay and allowances of Indian Officers since the 4th September, 1939

1. With effect from the 1st October 1940, an emergency allowance was sanctioned for Indian Officers serving in India at the following rates —

	Ra. per mensem
2/Lieutenant	65
Lieutenant during the first 3 years and nine months' service as such	65
Lieutenant after 3 years and nine months' service as such	60
Captain until completion of 2 years' service as such	50

This allowance ceased to be admissible with effect from the 1st January 1942 consequent on the introduction of new rates of pay as indicated in paragraph 4 below.

2. Prior to the 1st October, 1941 Indian Officers holding appointments carrying additional or charge pay received additional or charge pay at two-thirds of the rates authorised for King's Commissioned Officers. From the said date they were allowed to draw additional or charge pay at the full rates.

3. In 1941 Indian Commissioned Officers were for the first time posted to staff appointments and the following rates of consolidated pay were then introduced for such officers —

	Married or Single Ra. per mensem
G. S. O. I.	1,350
G. S. O. II.	1,000
G. S. O. III.	700

4. With effect from the 1st January 1942 an increase was made in the regimental rates of pay and allowances for Indian Officers and separate rates were laid down for single officers and married Officers. The revised rates are as follows —

	Single Ra. p. m.	Married Ra. p. m.
2/Lieutenant	370	450
Lieutenant	410	490
Lieutenant after 6 years' service	440	520
Captain	490	610
Captain after 11 years' service	530	660
Captain after 14 years' service	620	750
Major	765	850
Major after 22 years' service	865	950
Lieutenant-Colonel	1,090	1,145

Unmarried Indian Commissioned Officers were granted when not in receipt of expatriation allowance, a special allowance at the following rates in addition to the above rates —

	Ra. per mensem
2/Lieutenant	35
Lieutenant	50
Captain until completion of 11 years' service	50

5. From the 1st January 1942 separate rates were also laid down for married Indian Commissioned Officers holding staff appointments. These were:—

	Ra. per mensem
G. S. O. I.	1,510
G. S. O. II.	1,180
G. S. O. III.	830

6. With effect from the 1st December-1942, the following increased rates of pay were authorised for Indian Commissioned Officers—

	Unmarried Rs. p. m.	Married Rs. p. m.
Lieutenant after 3 years' service	440	520
Captain after 3 years' paid service as such .	500	630

7 In April 1943, the rates of corps pay for Indian Commissioned Officers serving in technical corps, e.g., I.E., R.I.A.S.C., I.A.O.C., I.E.M.E., etc., were increased to bring them to the level of K.C.O.s' rates. The old and new rates are as follows—

	Old rates Rs. p. m.	New rates Rs. p. m.
2nd Lieutenants and Lieutenants	40	45
Captains	60	70
Majors	100	115
Lieutenant-Colonels	130	160

The following increases in the pay and allowances of Indian soldiers (V.C.O.s and I.O.s) have been made since the 4th September 1939—

I Viceroys' Commissioned Officers—

1940—

Batta } Rates increased by Rs. 2 per mensem
Expatriation allowance }

1944—

Scales of pay—Revised as shown in reply to part (i) of starred question No 454 of 16th November, 1944

Batta—Further increase by Rs 3 per mensem

II Indian Other Ranks—

1940—

Batta } Increased by Rs-2 per mensem
Expatriation allowance }

1942—

Basic pay—Increased by Rs. 2 per mensem.

Deferred pay—Increased by Rs 2 per mensem.

Proficiency pay—Increased by Rs 1 per mensem after 6 months' service and Rs 3-8-0 per mensem after 1 year's service

Good service pay—Qualifying periods reduced from 2, 4 and 6 years to 1, 2, and 3 years, rates remaining the same

1944—

S.P.P.—Sanctioned with effect from the 1st January 1944, Rs 3 per mensem, after 6 months' service and Rs 5 per mensem after 1 year's service

Batta—Further increased by Rs 3 per mensem.

Sardar Mangal Singh: May I know whether any extra allowance has been sanctioned for those who have earned gallantry awards, e.g., the Military Cross etc

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: Certain monetary allowances are attached to these awards

Sardar Mangal Singh: With effect from what date?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: I would like to have notice of that question

Sardar Sant Singh: Is the increase sanctioned to the pay of Indian soldiers from 4th September to date in the same proportion to the increase of allowances sanctioned to British troops in India by His Majesty's Government?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: The Honourable Member will find this information from the statements laid on the table in reply to questions 454 and 455

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Next question.

PERSONS SELECTED FOR EMERGENCY COMMISSIONS.

456. ***Sardar Sant Singh:** Will the War Secretary please give the following information:

- (a) the number of persons selected for Emergency Commission since the 1st September, 1939, till the 1st of October, 1944;
- (b) the number of persons granted Commission during the above five years;
- (c) the number of such officers (i) discharged, (ii) dismissed, (iii) cashiered, (iv) tried by Summary General Court Martial during this period; and (v) convicted and sentenced to various terms of imprisonment; and

(d) the number of appeals filed against the above punishments, and the number of appeals accepted by His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief and His Excellency the Governor General

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: (a) This information is not readily available as selections during this period have been made by various authorities

(b) 27,049

(c) and (d) The information asked for by the Honourable Member is not readily available. It is being collected and will be laid on the table in due course

ELIGIBILITY FOR CIVIL SERVICES OF DISMISSED ARMY OFFICERS

457. *Sardar Sant Singh: Will the Honourable the Home Member please state if the officers who had been dismissed or discharged from the army are eligible for civil services under the Government?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: Army officers are either cashiered or dismissed. They are never discharged. There are no rules governing the re-employment of dismissed Army officers by a civil department, normally they would not be so employed

DETENTION OF MR. MADHAO SHRIPAD GOKHALE

458. *Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: Will the Honourable the Home Member please state

(a) if one Mr. Madhao Shripad Gokhale, M Sc, for some time in the service of the Imperial Chemical Industries and then for some time in the Salt-Petre Factory at Karachi, was arrested on the 26th March 1944 by the Amraoti (Berar) Police and is at present under detention under orders of the Central Government,

(b) the grounds for his detention,

(c) the place where he is detained,

(d) whether any interviews with him are allowed or would be allowed to his brother and sister, if not, why not,

(e) if any application was made to get him examined by a doctor for the medical fitness to revive an insurance policy which had lapsed, and if it was rejected, if so, why, and

(f) if the Government at any time intend to put him on trial?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) and (e) The Honourable Member is referred to the reply which I gave to Question No. 293 on the 19th November 1944

(b), (c), (d) and (f) Do not arise as Mr. Gokhale has been released

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: When was he released?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: A short time ago

INCREASE IN PAY AND ALLOWANCES OF BRITISH TROOPS.

459. *Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: Will the War Secretary please state

(a) if it is a fact that His Majesty's Government has increased the pay of the British soldiers and officers;

(b) whether the Government of India will have to bear this extra burden in respect of the British regiments and British officers in the Indian Army; and

(c) whether the Government of India at the time of demobilisation of Defence services will Indianise the Army in such a way and to such an extent that it will dispense with the British soldiers wholly and British officers considerably?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: (a) and (b). The attention of the Honourable Member is drawn to the replies given to parts (a) and (b) of Mr. K. C. Neogy's starred question No. 92 on the 3rd November 1944

(c) This is one of the matters which is engaging the active attention of Government.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: Since when has this matter been engaging the attention of the Government?

*Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner having exhausted his quota

- Mr. C. M. Trivedi:** For some time
- Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh:** What period?
- Mr. C. M. Trivedi:** I should say for about 8 to 10 months.
- Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh:** Has any progress been made?
- Mr. C. M. Trivedi:** Some progress
- Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh:** To what extent?
- Mr. C. M. Trivedi:** I am unable to define the extent of the progress
- Mr. Kooseinhoy A. Lalljee:** How long will it take to finish deliberations?
- Mr. C. M. Trivedi:** They will be finished as soon as it is possible to finish them

POST-WAR PLANS FOR HANDLOOM INDUSTRY.

460. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable Member for Planning and Development be pleased to state

(a) if Government have any post-war plans for protecting and developing handloom weaving industry,

(b) if their post-war planning includes this industry also, if so, what steps they are taking or propose to take to associate the representation of handloom weavers with this Department to develop their plans?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshr Dalal: (a) and (b) I invite the attention of the Honourable Member to para 5 at page 25 of the Second Report on Reconstruction Planning. The question of the protection and development of the handloom industry will be taken up in consultation with the Provinces. Attention is also invited to the Honourable the Commerce Member's reply to question No 406 by Prof. Ranga.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: As regards (b) of this question, may I know whether the Honourable Member is associating the representatives of the handloom industries in some form or other?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshr Dalal: The method and the organisation for working this out has not yet been devised. It is to be done by the Provinces first.

MEALS OF INDIAN TROOPS.

461. *Mr. K. S. Gupta: (a) Will the War Secretary please state if it is a fact that Indian troops are given two meals a day? If so, what are the times at which each meal is served? If the first meal is in the morning and second meal is in the evening, is not the interval between the two meals very long?

(b) When is the third meal to be universally adopted?

(c) Is it not a fact that British troops in India are served five meals a day? If so, what are the hours at which each meal is served? When was the fifth meal introduced for the British troops?

(d) What does each meal contain for (i) British, and (ii) Indian troops?

(e) What would be the total cost per day per head for food in the case of (i) a British soldier, and (ii) an Indian sepoy?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: (a) Hitherto Indian troops' daily rations have been divided into two meals. Times for meals are left to the discretion of units, but usually they are morning and evening. It has, however, been recognised that division of daily rations into three meals would be beneficial to health.

(b) Instructions have already been issued to encourage three meals a day to all Indian troops, but it is not the intention to force this on men who have been accustomed to two meals a day all their lives.

(c) No, Sir. British troops have only three meals a day, which are served in the morning, afternoon and evening.

(d) There is no fixed composition, which is left to the discretion of units.

(e) (i) British Soldier Rs. 1-5-0 per head per day.

(ii) Indian Sepoy Rs. 0-15-0 per head per day.

REMOVAL OF MR. R. N. Dey FROM INDIAN CIVIL SERVICE.

462. *Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: (a) Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state why Mr. R. N. Dey, a Magistrate and Collector in the United Provinces (on leave) has been removed from the Indian Civil Service?

- (b) What were the charges against him that led to his removal?
 (c) How many years service was at his credit?
 (d) Is he entitled to any pension or not?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) and (b) It would not be in the public interest to disclose the information. Action was taken against Mr. Dey by the Government of the United Provinces.

(c) 19 years

(d) Mr Dey has, with the sanction of the Secretary of State, been granted a pension of Rs 8,320 per annum subject to a minimum of £780 per annum.

Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: Is it a fact that this officer has been punished for holding independent opinions and not for any administrative fault?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: That comes under part (b) of the question and I have already said that it is not in the public interest to disclose the reasons.

Sardar Sant Singh: May I know the meaning of "public interest"? Are the public not interested in the "public interest"? Does the word "public" mean the bureaucracy or does it mean the taxpayer of the country?

(No answer)

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) Next question.

RE-EMPLOYMENT OF DISMISSED I C S. OFFICERS.

+463. *Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kasim: (a) Will the Honourable the Home Member please state how many dismissed I C S. officers have been employed by the Government of India during the past five years, and under what circumstances?

(b) Was the permission of the Secretary of State for India obtained prior to the re-employment of these officers? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) No dismissed Indian Civil Service officer has been employed by the Government of India during the past 5 years. I may add however for my Honourable friend's information that an Indian Civil Service officer who was removed from service was recently appointed for a period of 6 months as a Deputy Secretary in the Department of Information and Broadcasting.

(b) Does not arise.

NEW STANDARD TIME.

464. *Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: (a) Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state as to whether the new standard time was introduced for military exigencies?

(b) What was its public utility?

(c) Is there any necessity for maintaining it any longer?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a), (b) and (c). The reasons for the introduction of the new standard time and the advantages to be gained from it have been stated in reply to the question No 189 put by Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kasim on the same subject on the 25th February 1943 and in the Press note issued on the 4th April 1943, a copy of which is placed on the table of the House. Those considerations still apply and Government see no reason to make any change in the decision announced in the Press Note.

PRESS NOTE

In July last year the Government of India decided that with effect from the midnight of the 31st August-1st September, 1942, the Indian Standard Time throughout India should be 6½ instead of 5½ hours ahead of Greenwich Mean Time. The position has now been re-examined with a view to deciding whether any change in the existing Indian Standard Time should be made during the summer months. The continuance of the existing Standard Time will contribute to the avoidance of overlap of factory demands for electric power with the demands of street lighting and thus to release of more power for war purposes. It will also result in a not inconsiderable saving of railway wagons required for transport of coal consumed by electric power stations. Moreover there are practical

Answer to this question laid on the table the questioner being absent.

advantages in avoiding the dislocation inseparable from periodical changes. The Government of India recognise the present Indian Standard Time involves inconvenience to the areas lying west of meridian $82\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}\text{E}$ but they consider that if suitable adjustments of business, court and office hours are made this inconvenience can be considerably reduced. They have accordingly decided that the existing Indian Standard Time $5\frac{1}{2}$ hours ahead of Greenwich Mean Time should remain unchanged for the duration of the war.

HOME DEPARTMENT;
New Delhi, April 4, 1943

Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: Isn't it a fact that this time is very inconvenient to all people and will Government see to removing this time and reverting to the old standard time?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I have answered this question in my reference to the press note attached to my answer.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Has this change of time been to the good of the public and in the interests of Government?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: The object, as set out in the press note, is to save coal.

DETENTION OF MR. MADHAO SHRIPAD GOKHALE.

465. *Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: (a) Has the Honourable the Home Member seen the letter of Mr V S Gokhale of Amraoti published in the *Hindustan Times* of October, 26, 1944, regarding the whereabouts of his brother Mr Madhao Shripad Gokhale, M Sc., who was arrested on March 26, 1944?

(b) Why was he arrested?

(c) What were the charges against him, and have they been communicated to him?

(d) Has he got a right of reply and representation by a lawyer?

(e) Why has he been denied the ordinary privilege of an interview?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) Yes

(b) I am afraid that I am unable for security reasons to give the Honourable Member the information asked for.

(c) to (e) The Honourable Member is referred to the reply which I gave to Question No 298 on the 18th November, 1944

SCHEMES SUBMITTED BY LAXAMINARAYAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY, NAGPUR.

466. *Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: Will the Honourable Member for Planning and Development please state

(a) if the Laxaminarayan Institute of Technology of Nagpur submitted schemes of research for consideration of the Board of Scientific and Industrial Research, Government of India, through the Central Provinces, Provincial Scientific and Industrial Research Committee, and

(b) what these schemes are, and which, if any of these have been approved and financed by the Government, and what the reasons are for either rejecting or not financing the other schemes?

The Honourable Sir Arden Sir Dalal: (a) Yes

(b) The three research schemes were

(i) Research scheme on essential oils,

(ii) Research scheme on utilisation of manganese ore of the Central Provinces,

(iii) Research scheme on utilisation of bauxite deposits of the Central Provinces

The research scheme relating to essential oils was sanctioned by the G. B. of the C S I R. in July 1944, with a grant of Rs 2,500 for one year. The other two schemes relating to the utilisation of manganese and bauxite ore deposits in Central Provinces have been referred as recommended by the Board of Scientific and Industrial Research, to the Heavy Chemicals Committee of the Board for opinion and comments. On receipt of the report of this Committee further action will be considered.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: May I know the date of reference to that body?

The Honourable Sir Ardesbir Dalal: I could not tell the Honourable Member the exact date but more or less the same time as the date on which the other scheme was sanctioned.

SUBSIDIZED NEWSPAPERS.

467. *Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: Will the Honourable Member for Information and Broadcasting please state.

(a) the number of newspapers in each language which are subsidized by the Government of India—

(i) by the payment of a cash subsidy, and

(ii) by the purchase of a large number of copies by Government for distribution, and

(b) whether the Honourable Member proposes to place the details of the names and the amount of subsidy paid on the table?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: (a) (i) *Nil* (ii) Government of India pay for copies of many newspapers for use by their officials, in offices or in official libraries. No important newspaper, whatever its editorial policy, is excluded from consideration. Certain officials whose official work requires that they should be in touch with public opinion are allowed to buy newspapers at Government expense. In such cases, the selection of the newspapers is left to the officer concerned.

National War Front organizations have also been purchasing copies of newspapers with definite pro-war and anti-Fascist editorial policies for use by National War Front workers.

(b) The time and effort required to collect the names of all newspapers and the amounts of subscription paid would be out of all proportion to the value of the information obtained and I regret I am unable to undertake to collect it.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Is it a fact that the Provincial Government grant subsidies to newspapers in certain instances out of the funds placed at their disposal from the National War Front?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: I have no information as regards subsidies.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Will the Honourable Member find out by making enquiries from the Provincial Governments whether they are not subsidising certain newspapers in this way and will the Honourable Member be in a position to lay on the table of the House a list of such newspapers indicating the amounts of subsidies granted to each?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: Certainly, I will enquire.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable Member lay on the table of the House on a convenient occasion a list of those newspapers, which are allowed to be purchased by these officers at Government expense?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: I have answered this particular question in my answer to part (b).

Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: Is it a fact that 50 newspapers are subsidised in the United Provinces?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: I have no information, Sir.

Sardar Mangal Singh: Do the Government maintain a list of selected newspapers which they consider to be fit for Government advertisements?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: Yes, they do.

Sardar Mangal Singh: In selecting such a newspaper, what are the considerations which weigh with the Government?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: Mainly circulation, Sir.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I know if the Government maintain a list of favoured newspapers?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: We have a list of favoured and non-favoured newspapers, because we are anxious to know the extent to which unreasonable criticism can go.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Will Government place on the table of the House a list of such favoured and non-favoured newspapers?

TRIAL OF MR. JAIPRAKASH NARAYAN.

468. *Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: Will the Honourable the Home Member please state

(a) if Jaiprakash Narayan, a detenu at present, is to be tried for any offences under the Indian Penal Code, if so, for what offences; and

(b) if he will be given all possible facilities to have interviews with and instructions from his counsel for his defence

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) I would refer the Honourable Member to my answer to starred question No 198 on the 8th November.

(b) If he is brought to trial he will of course be given all facilities

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: Has he been brought to trial?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: If he is brought to trial he will of course be given all facilities

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: Do the Government intend to bring him to trial?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: The matter was under consideration

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: Is the Honourable Member aware that reports have reached the public that the Lahore High Court is going to try this gentleman under some section of the Indian Penal Code?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I have no information

Sardar Sant Singh: Will the Honourable Member enlighten the House as to when it was decided to place him on trial in respect of the offences mentioned in the Indian Penal Code and was any remand taken for the purpose by the Police?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: The answer to which I have referred in my reply was to the effect that no decision has yet been taken. I repeated that today. No decision has yet been taken

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: Since when has this matter been under consideration of the Government?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: Sometime

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: Can we have an idea?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I do not know it myself

FACILITY TO DR. LOHIA, A DETENU.

469. *Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: Will the Honourable the Home Member please state

(a) if Dr Lohia is allowed to write to and receive letters from his nearest relatives, if so, how many times a month;

(b) if the father of Dr Lohia is allowed to have interviews with him; if not, why not; and

(c) the whereabouts of Dr Lohia and the condition of his health?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) He can write and receive letters as allowed in the Punjab Security Prisoners Rules, 1944, a copy of which is in the Library of the House

(b) His father has not yet been allowed to interview him for reasons of security, but the question of allowing an interview is under consideration.

(c) He is in Lahore Fort. His health was recently reported to be excellent.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: May I know if there is any classification of these detenus, such as Congress detenus and Congress-Socialist detenus?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I would refer the Honourable Member to the rules which I have referred to in my reply.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: Was it for the security of his son that the father was not allowed to see him?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: Security of every one, including that of the Honourable Member.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: With reference to the Honourable Member's reply to part (b) of the question, is he aware that Dr. Lohia is the only son of his father and that the father is old and ailing? Is the Honourable Member prepared to consider the desirability of granting the father an interview with his son at an early date?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I would refer the Honourable Member to what I have already stated. The question is under consideration.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: What I want to know is whether the consideration mentioned will be ended fairly quickly?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: Yes

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Within the lifetime of the father?

It may be a matter for laughter for the Government. It is not for the old father. I strongly object to this laughter

AGREEMENT FOR MANUFACTURE OF ARTIFICIAL FERTILISERS IN THE TRAVANCORE STATE.

470. *Mr. K. O. Neogy: (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state whether he is aware of the agreement entered into by two Directors of the Inter-Coptinent Corporation of New York with the Government of Travancore for the manufacture of artificial fertilisers in the State?

(b) Is it a fact that though the Government of India had granted permission for the issue of capital for this enterprise the Government have refused to release the necessary dollars for the purchase of machinery from America?

(c) Is it also a fact that the non-official Indian delegation visiting America in connection with the Atlantic City Business Conference has been allowed only insufficient dollar resources?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) I have no definite information regarding the existence of any such agreement or of its terms

(b) and (c) No

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: In regard to the answer to part (b), may I ask the Honourable Member if the position is really the other way about? The Government have given the necessary amount of Dollars for this company but have refused or indicated that any application for further capital issue will be rejected summarily

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I am afraid I shall require notice of that degree of detail

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: The Honourable Member has been asked if a particular position was true. Since it is not true, is he not aware of the converse position as well?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: The information here with me is that the suggestion in part (b) is entirely incorrect. I am not at this moment familiar with the exact details owing to my absence from India at the time but I do know that the report, which, I believe, has appeared in the press, to the effect that dollars had been refused, is entirely incorrect

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: Will not the Honourable Member look into the file concerned a little further down where he will find out what was the communication made to this company by the Government of India?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I have not got the details with me.

Mr. K. O. Neogy: With reference to part (c) of the question, will the Honourable Member please state the considerations that weigh with his Department in deciding upon the sufficiency or otherwise of dollar resources allowed in such cases?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: As I have had some personal experience of this sort of thing, I can assure the Honourable Member that the considerations taken into account are what would be a reasonable quantity for an individual of a certain status to spend during his stay in America.

MAJOR INDUSTRIES PROPOSED TO BE ESTABLISHED AFTER THE WAR.

471. *Mr. T. S. Avinashlingam Chettiar: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Planning and Development please state what those major industries are which the Government propose to establish in India when the war is over?

(b) Do they propose to establish them through the State or through private enterprise?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: (a) A list of major industries to investigate the development of which, it is proposed to set up panels is being prepared and will be placed in the Library of the House when it is ready.

(b) No decision has been arrived at yet

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Are the Government aware that the Honourable the Commerce Member told us a few days ago that it has been decided by the Government of India to start certain major industries?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: The principle of the Government themselves starting major industries has not yet been decided

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Has the Honourable Member's attention been drawn to press reports in which it is stated that very large enterprises are being undertaken in certain parts of India at the instance of foreign interests?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: Yes, Sir.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Do these instances come to the notice of the Honourable Member in an official manner or has he to depend upon newspaper reports just as we have to

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: I have only seen general statements on the subject in newspapers

PROPOSAL FOR MAINTAINING A CHAIN OF SUBSIDIZED NEWSPAPERS

- 472. ***Mr. K. S. Gupta:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Information and Broadcasting please state if it is a fact that the Government of India are contemplating to start a chain of subsidised newspapers in the country? If so, when and why?

(b) Is it a fact that the Central Provinces Provincial Committee of the All-India Newspaper Editors' Conference warned the Government that any attempt to maintain a subsidized press would not only hold them and the newspapers concerned to public ridicule, but create unnecessary bitterness between them and the entire Press?

(c) Are Government aware that the All-India Newspaper Editors' Conference is in agreement with the above view and passed a resolution to that effect?

(d) In view of the above feeling, would the Government drop the idea, if there is any, to have a chain of subsidized Newspapers?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: (a) No

(b) A Resolution on the subject of subsidized press as adopted by the C. P. Provincial Committee of the All-India Newspaper Editors' Conference was brought to the notice of the Government of India

(c) I am informed that a resolution on the point was moved at the recent meeting of the All-India Newspaper Editors' Conference, but the matter was eventually dropped

(d) Does not arise in view of my reply to part (a)

Prof. N. G. Ranga: In view of the reply to part (b) I submit that the part (d) does arise, because the resolution of the C. P. Branch of the All-India Newspaper Editors' Conference has been submitted to the Honourable Member and we would like him to let the House know what are the conclusions that the Government of India have drawn on the basis of the resolution communicated to them.

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: That question does not arise because part (a) started with the assumption that the Government was contemplating to start a chain of subsidised newspapers in the country. That fact is not correct.

SUBSIDIES TO *Vanguard* AND *People's Voice*.

473. ***Mr. K. S. Gupta:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Information and Broadcasting please state how many copies of *Vanguard* of Delhi and *People's Voice* of Calcutta are being purchased by the Government for distribution among their servants?

(b) What are the subsidies given to the above two papers and since when?

(c) Are there any other ways of helping them by the Government?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: (a) No copies of either the *People's Voice* of Calcutta or the *Vanguard* of Delhi are being purchased by the Government of India. The National War Front purchased 1,500 copies of *Vanguard* for use by their workers in the provinces during the year April, 1944 to March 1945. It has been decided to discontinue the purchase from the 1st April, 1945

(b) No subsidies are granted to either of the two papers

(c) No

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Are these papers on the list of those papers which are allowed to be purchased at the cost of the Government by Government officials?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: Yes

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Are they paid for in a lump sum by the Department?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: No

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: How then do they arrive at the figure of 1,500 copies?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: Lump sum. 1,500 copies are purchased for those officers who require them for their workers

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Were they ordered individually?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: I have got no knowledge of that

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: In view of the fact that the Government has that figure of 1,500 copies—it must have been ordered in a lump by the Government. Am I correct?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: I have no idea, that is a matter for the national war front and I have not got the information

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: You are the leader?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: I am not the leader

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Who is the leader?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: There is no leader

RESTRICTIONS ON BUILDING CONSTRUCTIONS.

474. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable the Defence Member please state when restrictions were placed on buildings of the Civil Departments of the Government of India, Provincial Public Works Departments, Municipalities, Port Trusts, District Boards and other public bodies, and why?

(b) When was it found necessary to requisition not merely cement but bricks, tiles and all other building material including timber?

(c) Have the reasons for these restrictions not abated now and have Government considered the desirability of relaxing these restrictions?

(d) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the serious overcrowding in Bombay, the harassment to civil population whose places of residence are requisitioned at the instance of the Government of India and the desirability of permitting some buildings to go up which will provide accommodation for different classes of people?

(e) Have Government considered that the explosion has dishoused a large number of people for whom it is their duty to provide with housing?

(f) Have they received any representations from Provincial Governments generally and particularly from the Province of Bombay for relaxation of the restrictions on building of all classes or of any particular class?

(g) If Government are not prepared to relax these restrictions and permit necessary building to go up, will they explain on the basis of the latest available materials and the needs of the Army for such materials, why permission for buildings that will accommodate civil population should not now be given?

(h) Will Government appoint a Committee including Members of this House to go into this question to advise them?

Sir Charles Ogilvie: Attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the reply given by the Honourable Member for Supply Department to Starred question No. 855 on 14th November, 1944.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Are Government aware that there is considerable discontent and apprehension in the minds of the public that Government are only catering for the requirements of the military, regardless of the harassment and the inconvenience which may be experienced by the civil population?

Sir Charles Ogilvie: Every possible regard is paid to the requirements of the civil population, but it is of course admitted that requisitioning must always be attended by considerable inconvenience. Everything possible is, however, done to mitigate it.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Are Government aware that in the city of Bombay the distressing situation created by military requisitions has been very much worsened by the explosion which has dishoused a very much larger number and therefore will Government appoint a committee to consider the immediate requirements of the city of Bombay for the civil population and will they release some building material for it?

Sir Charles Ogilvie: I am unable to answer the question about the release of building material, which does not concern my Department. My Department is of course aware of the deterioration in the general situation caused by the explosion.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I know, because coming from Bombay on the other side we are told that they are helpless, because the military Department insists on this, that and the other, and here my friend says that they are doing everything. I therefore want to know whether Government will look further into this matter and have a small committee of military people, the civil population, the Municipal Commissioner of Bombay and one of the Advisers of the Government of Bombay to go into this question whether something could not be done to alleviate the situation which the Honourable Member himself admits is very hard?

Sir Charles Ogilvie: It is known to me that the military authorities in Bombay are doing everything possible in direct consultation with the Provincial Government on this subject and that no complaint has ever been received that the requirements which they are making are in any way unreasonable. The difficulty is how to meet them.

DETENTION OF MR JAIPRAKASH NARAYAN.

475. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: (a) Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state under what law or regulation or ordinance Mr Jai Prakash Naram is held in jail?

(b) In which jail is he kept at present?

(c) What are the privileges granted to him regarding company, association, diet, clothing, library, letters, newspapers and disabilities imposed such as lock-up, denial of companions, or letters or books?

(d) Is he allowed any facilities for recreation?

(e) What is the state of his health?

(f) Is it true that he has been kept in solitary confinement, and, if so, for how long and why?

(g) Is it true that Government are thinking of trying him in an open court of law?

(h) If the answer to (g) is in the affirmative will Government give him the usual facilities of engaging his own lawyers and instructing them in defending himself?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) Ordinance III of 1944.

(b) He is detained in the Lahore Fort.

(c), (d) and (f) He is treated as a Class I security prisoner under the Punjab Security Prisoners Rules, 1944, a copy of which is in the Library of the House. He has however been segregated from other prisoners but allowed some companionship every day.

(e) His health was recently reported to be excellent. *

(g) and (h) I would refer the Honourable Member to my answer to starred question No 198 on the 8th November and to the answer I have just given to question No 468

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What is meant by "some companionship for a portion of the day"? What sort of companionship and for how long?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: Human companionship

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What sort of human companions are they—ordinary convicts, or are they politicals or are they ordinary prisoners?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I believe it is the companionship of Mr. Ram Manohar Lohia

Sardar Mangal Singh: May I know if this Lahore Fort is a judicial lock-up or a jail?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I would ask for notice of that

Sardar Mangal Singh: Is it not a fact that persons are kept there only temporarily who are required to be kept under observation?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I do not know, it is under the Punjab Government

Sardar Mangal Singh: Will the Honourable Member make inquiries that in that sort persons are not kept indefinitely?

(No answer was given)

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Am I to understand that Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia and Mr. Jai Prakash Narain are allowed to meet each other only for a few hours each day, or are they kept together all the time?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: No, they meet for a certain period and perhaps other people as well every day, they are not kept together

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Am I to understand that after this meeting they are again separated and kept in separate jails?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: That is what I said not jails

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Separate cells? What are the other people the Honourable Member is referring to with whom they are also privileged to meet from time to time?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I merely happen to know that Mr. Jai Prakash Narain does meet Mr. Ram Manohar Lohia, whether he meets other people or not or what their names are I have no information

Mr. Sri Prakasa: In view of the fact that the Honourable Member said that Mr. Jai Prakash is given some human companionship and in view of the further fact that the Honourable Member is not aware of the sort of persons who are allowed to see Mr. Jai Prakash from time to time, will the Honourable Member kindly make inquiries as we are rather anxious about the type of persons who meet him, because sometimes only ordinary convicts are given as so-called companions to educated and highly placed prisoners such as Mr. Jai Prakash Narain? I want to know whether the persons who are allowed to meet him besides Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia are persons whom we on this side of the House regard as political prisoners, even though that term is not definitely defined by the Government?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: The conditions of Mr. Jai Prakash Narain's detention in the Lahore Fort are determined by the Punjab Government

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is he allowed any facility to have any walk?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) Next question

Mr. Sri Prakasa: This is a very important question, Sir. It deals with the health of an important person

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) The Honourable Member has said that the matter is really the concern of the Punjab Government

Mr. Sri Prakasa: If you will kindly permit me to make a submission. I want to say that the Honourable Member said that Mr. Jai Prakash is detained under the rules and regulations of the Punjab Government. As a matter of fact, if you look into the rules we only find general indications and conditions there, while part (c) of the question wants details as regards the number of

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letters that are allowed, the names of newspapers, etc. I hope you will, in deference to the desires and anxieties of this part of the House, permit the Honourable Member to reply to that question.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): He has made it clear that these matters of detail are really the concern of the Punjab Government and he has got no information on this point.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: I submit that what the Honourable Member has said is that the matter is the concern of the Punjab Government and that the conditions imposed on the gentleman concerned are in accordance with the regulations of the Punjab Government. Now the book that he referred to only gives general indication of the conditions. We want to know the number of letters he is allowed to write, the names of the newspapers he is allowed to read, etc., because he is really a special sort of prisoner.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): You cannot have a debate on this. The Honourable Member may put down a question.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: The Honourable Member had enough time to make inquiries from the Punjab Government and give us specific answers.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): He has given the answer.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: He has evaded the question and is not giving proper answers to the questions.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member knows that the Chair cannot compel any member of the Government to give an answer that will satisfy the Honourable Member who puts the question.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: If you will permit us to put supplementary questions, we will try to get proper answers. That certainly is within your power.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I cannot allow any further argument. Next question.

DETENTION OF DR. LOHIA.

476. ***Prof. N. G. Ranga**: (a) Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state under what law Dr. Bhanu Manohar Lohia is kept under detention?

(b) In which place is he at present undergoing detention? Is it a fact that he was brought to the Delhi Fort on or about the 20th June, 1944?

(c) What facilities regarding diet, clothing, money, company, books, correspondence, newspapers, etc., is he allowed to enjoy?

(d) What is the state of his health?

(e) Why is it that repeated requests made by his aged father to be granted an interview with his son on the ground that he had not seen him for a long time have been turned down by the Government?

(f) Will the Government be pleased to reconsider and grant an early interview to his aged father with his son at least on humanitarian grounds?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) Ordinance III of 1944.

(b) He is detained in Lahore Fort. He was not brought to Delhi Fort on or about 20th June, 1944.

(c) He is detained under the same conditions as Mr. Jai Prakash Narain for which I refer my Honourable friend to the reply just given to question No. 475.

(d) His health was recently reported to be excellent.

(e) For reasons of security.

(f) This is under consideration.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: With reference to part (c) of the question, will the Honourable Member be pleased to give us more details regarding diet, clothing, money, company, books, correspondence and newspapers allowed to our friend Dr. Bhanu Manohar Lohia.

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I have no further details to give.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: In view of the fact that I have been kept in a solitary lock up for nearly six months in jail and I happen to know the rigours of it

and the pains of it, will the Honourable Member be pleased at least to take this occasion to inquire from the Punjab Government what sort of facilities are given to these people and what sort of disabilities to which they are subjected?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: The position is, I may explain again, that he is a prisoner in the Punjab jail. The responsibility for keeping him and seeing that he does not escape is entirely that of the Punjab Government and they and they alone can decide what security regulations to apply. That follows logically from their responsibility for detention.

Sardar Sant Singh: May I ask the Honourable Member, if the responsibility for detention is that of the Central Government, whether the responsibility for safety is that of the Punjab Government?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: These people are in the charge of the Punjab Government.

Sardar Sant Singh: How is this the responsibility of the Punjab Government and how does that logically follow? The logic is just the other way. When the Central Government detain him, it is the duty of the Central Government to see that he is properly treated.

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: The Punjab Government are in the position of a jailor.

Sardar Mangal Singh: There are few cells in the fort. There is no open space to walk about.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: He has not been in the lock-up.

Sardar Mangal Singh: There are few cells in the fort. There is no open space for the prisoners to walk about in the morning and evening.

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I am told that is not the case.

Sardar Mangal Singh: Will the Honourable Member allow some of the Members of this Honourable House to pay a visit to the Lahore Fort and find out the conditions?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: That question should be addressed to the Punjab Government.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: In view of the fact that we are often told that the health of some of these prisoners is excellent when they are really dying, will the Honourable Member kindly make sure that the report about our friend's health is really correct? Will the Honourable Member be prepared to have him re-examined by a few doctors?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I have no reason to doubt the report.

SALT POSITION IN BENGAL AND EASTERN PROVINCES

477. ***Mr. K. O. Neogy:** (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to make a statement indicating—

(i) the approximate stocks of salt now held in Bengal and the present scheme of importation of sea-borne salt for consumption in the eastern provinces, and

(ii) the average retail prices at which salt has been available in the interior of the eastern provinces during the last few weeks?

(b) Is the Honourable Member aware of the serious shortage of salt that arises now and then in the interior of the eastern provinces and the high prices at which it is sold on such occasions? If so, what steps are contemplated for the purpose of making salt readily available at all centres of distribution in these provinces at fair prices?

(c) Has any serious attempt been made in Bengal for the purpose of developing a salt industry at suitable places bordering the Bay of Bengal since 1931 when an additional import duty on salt was imposed and a portion of the proceeds of this duty was made available to the Government of Bengal in the expectation that it would be devoted to the exploration of possibilities of the establishment of a salt industry there? What is the total amount of the share of the additional import duty on salt that was thus made available to the Government of Bengal since 1931 and how much of it has been spent on the above object?

(d) Are the Government aware of a report on the possibility of the salt industry in the Sunderbuns submitted to the Government of Bengal in 1938 by Rai Bahadur D N Mukherjee, then Superintendent of Excise and Salt in Calcutta and now of the Excise Department of the Central Government, and Mr P S Rao, Deputy Conservator of Forests, Bengal, in the course of which they came to the conclusion that Bengal has better prospects of salt being manufactured by the Buima process than Buima itself and that salt, if manufactured under the said process in Bengal, has the immediate prospect of a successful market?

(e) Are the Government also aware that experiments carried on by a few concerns on a limited scale have established the possibility of manufacturing salt of a good quality in the coastal areas of Bengal on a commercial scale, by the solar evaporation method?

(f) Is it a fact that in 1943 when there was a scarcity of salt supply in Bengal the Government of Bengal with the sanction of the Government of India opened a few warehouses in the districts of Midnapore, 24 Parganas, and Chittagong for the collection of salt produced by its inhabitants of the coastal villages under the Gandhi-Irwin Pact? If so did this step prove a success in any of the aforesaid districts and is the scheme still in operation? Has any proposal been made by the Government of Bengal to the Government of India for the abolition of duty on salt produced as a cottage industry by villagers in the coastal areas?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Ralsman: (a) (i) As regards the first part of the question, enquiries show that 8.02 lakh maunds of salt were in Government *galas* and private godowns of the principal dealers on 6th November, 1944. The present scheme of importation of sea-borne salt in the Eastern Provinces namely Bengal and Assam is that as previously it is imported through the normal trade channels. The importers are given facilities in respect of import licenses and transport.

(ii) I place a Statement on the table.

(b) There has been no shortage of salt in Bengal and Assam since last May after which date imports have actually exceeded the target figure of 35,000 tons a month. As regards distribution, the control of all imports has been taken over by the Bengal Government who are taking the necessary measures to ensure that salt is readily available at reasonable prices.

(c) Seven salt factories were operating in Bengal in 1942-43 whereas there were none in 1931.

As regards the second part of the question Rs 16,92,000 in all was paid to the Government of Bengal as their share of the additional import duty on salt collected up to the 30th April 1938 when it was abolished. So far as the Government of India are aware no substantial portion of this amount has been spent on the development of the salt industry in the Province.

(d) Yes.

(e) Government are not in possession of any such information.

(f) Yes. The salt concerned, however, though manufactured on a cottage industry basis, falls outside the scope of the Delhi Pact concession. The scheme is still in operation but its success is doubtful. The Government of Bengal proposed the abolition or reduction of duty in respect of this form of manufacture but the Government of India saw no sufficient justification for that measure.

Statement showing the retail price of salt in Bengal and Assam

	Retail price per seer			Remarks
	Rs	As	P	
<i>Bengal (as on 28th October, 1944)</i>				
CALCUTTA	0	2	9	Controlled
24 Parganas (Alipore)	0	3	0	
Diamond Harbour	0	2	6 to 0	
Barrackpore	0	2	3 to 0	
Baranet	0	2	6 to 0	
Basurhat	0	2	3 to 0	

	Rs	A.	P	
NADIA	0	3	0	
Kushtia	0	3	0	
Maherpur	0	3	0	
Chusdanga	0	2	9	
Ranaghat	0	3	0	
MURSHIDABAD	0	3	0	
Lalbagh	0	3	0	
Jangipur	0	3	0	
Kandi	Not reported			
JESSORE	0	3	0	
Jhensdah	0	4	0	
Magura	0	3	6	Government Stock Con-
Narail	0	3	6	trolled
Bongaon	0	3	6	
KHULNA	0	3	0	
Satkhira				
Bagerhat	0	3	0	
BURDWAN	0	3	0	
Asansol	0	3	0	
Katwa	0	3	6	
Kalna	0	3	6	
BIRBHUM	0	3	0	
Rampurhat	0	3	0	
BANKURA	0	3	0	
Vishnupur	0	3	0	
MIDNAPORE (Sadar North)	0	2	9	Government Stock.
MIDNAPORE (Sadar South)	0	1	0	
Cental	0	2	0	
Tamluk	0	2	9	
Ghatol	0	3	6	
Jhargram	0	2	9	
HOOGHLY	0	3	0	
Serampore	0	3	0	
Arambag	0	4	0	
HOWRAH	0	3	0	
Ulubria	0	3	6	
RAJSHAHI	0	3	0	
Naogaon	0	3	3	
Nator	0	3	0	
DINAJPUR				
THAKURGON	0	3	3	
Balurghat	0	3	3	
JALPAIGURI	0	1	6	
Alpurduar	0	3	6	
DARJEELING	0	3	6	
Kurseong	0	3	6	
Siliguri	0	3	3	
Kalimpong	0	3	3	
RANGPUR	0	3	0	
Nilphamari	0	3	6	
Kurigram	0	3	6	
Gaibandha	0	3	3	
BOGRA	Not reported.			
PABNA	0	3	0	
Sereganj	0	2	0 to 0	3 0
MALDA	0	3	6	
DACCA (Sadar North)	0	3	6	
DACCA (Sadar South)	0	3	3	
Narainganj	0	12	0	
Manikganj	0	3	6	
Munshiganj	0	6	6	
MYMENSINGH (Sadar North)	0	4	0	
MYMENSINGH (Sadar South)	0	3	0	
Jamalpur	0	4	0	
Tangail	0	6	3	
Netrokona	0	3	0	
Kesoreganj	0	4	0	
FARIDPUR	0	3	0	
Goalundo	0	3	6	
Madaripur	0	3	6 to 0	3 9
Gopalganj	0	3	6	
BAKARGANJ (Sadar North)	0	3	0	
				Controlled

	Rs.	A.	P.	
BAKARGANJ (Sadar South)	0	4	0	Controlled
Proppur			Not reported	
Patuakhali	0	3	6	
Bhola	0	4	0	
CHITTAGONG (Sadar "A")	0	3	0	Government Stock
CHITTAGONG (Sadar "B")	0	6	0	
Cox's Bazar	0	4	0	
TIPPERA (Sadar North)			Not reported	
TIPPERA (Sadar South)	0	5	0	
Brahmanberia	0	4	6	
Chandpur	0	3	6	
NOAKHALI	0	4	0	Controlled
CHITTAGONG HILL TRACTS (Rangamati)	0			
Rangamati	0			
Assam (for fortnight ended 31st August, 1944)				
1 Cachar				} 0
2 Darrang				
3 Goalpara				
4 Khasi and Jaintia Hills				
5 Lakhimpur				
6 Sylhet				

Mr. K. O. Neogy: With reference to part (d) of the question, do I take it that the Government of India have no control with regard to the distribution of salt in the interior?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Actually that is now a matter for my Honourable Colleague the Food Member and I am afraid I am not quite sure of the precise position. The information before me is that as regards distribution the control of all imports has been taken over by the Bengal Government.

Mr. K. O. Neogy: With reference to part (e) of the question, may I request the Honourable Member to make inquiries on this subject?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I have made inquiries in the short time available to me and as regards our records here I have not been able to obtain any further information than I have given in my reply.

UTILIZATION FOR INDUSTRIAL PURPOSES OF SALT MANUFACTURED IN BENGAL COASTAL AREAS BY CERTAIN CALCUTTA FIRMS

478. ***Mr. K. O. Neogy:** (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state whether it is a fact that certain industrial firms in Calcutta utilise salt manufactured in the coastal areas of Bengal for industrial purposes with the approval of the Central Excises and Salt Department which allows refunds of the duty levied on such salt to them as a concession? If so, has any salt manufacturing firm in Bengal been recognised as approved dealer of the Central Government for this purpose and are Government aware of any difficulty experienced by any such firm in having their supplies made available to industrial firms since the recent introduction of rationing of salt in Calcutta and the Calcutta Industrial Area?

(b) Is the Honourable Member aware that prosecution was launched against one such firm in September last at the instance of the Provincial Rationing authorities for bringing salt into the Calcutta area for being supplied to some industrial firms recognised by the Central Excises and Salt Department in continuation of a previous practice?

(c) Do Government propose to impress upon the Government of Bengal the desirability of taking early and determined steps to assist the establishment of a salt industry in Bengal at an early date particularly in view of the possibility of the importation of salt by the sea route into Bengal being jeopardised by developments in the campaign against Burma?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) and (b) The information asked for is not readily available. It is being collected and replies will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

(c) The Government of Bengal are already aware of the position.

REPORT OF ASSOCIATED PRESS OF AMERICA RE BOMBAY PLAN.

†479. *Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Planning and Development be pleased to state if his attention has been drawn to the following report of the Associated Press of America released for publication in India by the United States of America Office of War Information in the second week of August, 1944

"The Bombay plan was developed by industrialists led by the House of Tata. Government approved the plan and appointed Sir Ardeshr Dalal, a Tata partner, to the Viceroy's Council as Member for Planning and Reconstruction."

The United States enters into the picture because in India both private industrialists and Government would like a series of American loans totalling about 1,500 million dollars with which to buy American machinery.

Another partner, A. D. Shroff who is in New York talking with bankers and manufacturers, says the plan offers a 'splendid opportunity for the United States to enter the India market. The only fly in the ointment is our difficulty in getting American dollars to pay'. However, he is convinced both the British Government and the businessmen want to find a way to end British Government domination of India."

(b) If the answer to (a) be in the affirmative are the statements true? If not, will the Honourable Member be pleased to go through the report and state if the Government of India would issue a communiqué to contradict the above statements with a view to clear up any wrong impression made in public minds either in India or in America?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshr Dalal: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government do not consider it necessary to issue a press communiqué as suggested by the Honourable Member, as their views on planning have received adequate publicity, particularly since the beginning of this Session.

NEGOTIATIONS BY NON-OFFICIAL MEMBERS OF THE DELEGATION TO WORLD MONETARY CONFERENCE

†480. *Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya: (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state if the non-official members of the Delegation to the World Monetary Conference were entitled to enter into negotiations with the New York Bankers? If so, were they entitled to enter into any such negotiation in the capacity of Delegates or in their private and personal capacities?

(b) Were they authorised to invite the United States to enter the Indian Market as, Mr. A. D. Shroff did, according to the report, while in America?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: No non-official member of the Indian Delegation to the Bretton Woods Conference was authorised by the Government of India to act on their behalf in any matter unconnected with the Monetary Conference. Members were, however, naturally free to act as they pleased in matters outside the scope of that Conference.

DESIRABILITY OF DEARNESS ALLOWANCE FOR PENSIONERS.

481. *Mr. Frank R. Anthony: (a) Is the Honourable the Finance Member aware that the increased and increasing cost of living has not only affected Government servants very adversely, but even more so the large number of pensioners of all grades who are entirely dependent in their old age on their pensions?

(b) Is he aware that many of these pensioners who are finding it increasingly difficult to live respectably served with distinction in the last war?

(c) Is it not a fact that pension is a deferred pay and is granted by Government to their employees for long, faithful and loyal service?

(d) Do Government propose to take into consideration the hardships that pensioners are undergoing and give some relief in their distress by granting them dearness allowance adopted in the case of persons who are in the active service of the Government? If not, what are the reasons which are standing in the way of taking a sympathetic view in the case of pensioners?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) Government are aware that pensioners in common with Government servants and other members of the public, have been affected by the rise in the cost of living, and for this reason

†Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner being absent.

Government have already sanctioned relief by granting temporary increases in small pensions on the following scale

- Rs 3 per mensem in pensions not exceeding Rs 20 per mensem
- Rs 4 per mensem in pensions exceeding Rs 20 but not exceeding Rs 40 per mensem
- Rs 5 per mensem in pensions exceeding Rs 40 but not exceeding Rs 75 per mensem

It is estimated that increases on this scale will cost Rs 14 lakhs a year in the Central Civil Budget and from six to seven times this amount in the Defence Budget

(b) Yes

(c) Pension is not deferred pay but is the reward of long and approved service

(d) As stated in the reply to part (a) of the question Government have already sanctioned some relief to pensioners. Dearness allowance at the rates admissible to serving Government employees cannot, however be extended to pensioners, as considerations of the efficiency of the public service do not apply in the same degree in respect of pensioners as of persons in the active service of Government. Government are therefore obliged to restrict the extent of relief to pensioners to limits which do not impose an undue burden on the tax-payer. The present limits have the general support of Provincial Governments. It should furthermore not be forgotten that the war has provided greatly increased opportunities of employment for pensioners and their families.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Is it not a fact that the civil pensioners were actually given the dearness allowance only this year and it has been stopped recently?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I am not aware of that.

Mr. Frank R. Anthony: Am I to understand that the Government is not prepared to consider the cases of other pensioners for the purpose of dearness allowance?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: The present position is as I have described. It is a fact that all questions relating to dearness allowance come under review from time to time, but I will not commit myself to anything in the nature of a promise.

DETENTION OF DR LOHIA

482. ***Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta:** (a) Will the Honourable the Home Member please state if it is a fact that Dr. Ram Mohan Lohia, Ph.D., has been arrested? If so, when and where and under what law and for what offence?

(b) Where is he being detained now?

(c) Is it a fact that the said Doctor is meted out the same treatment as worst criminals?

(d) Is it a fact that the father of the said Doctor applied for an interview with his son?

(e) Is it a fact that no interview was allowed to his father?

(f) Why is the said Doctor not allowed interviews even with the members of his family?

(g) Is it a fact that this said Doctor is being kept in the underground cells of the Delhi Fort? Is he allowed to come out of the cells in the open air and for how many hours?

(h) Is it a fact that he is not allowed correspondence with his friends and relations, if not, why not?

(i) Is he allowed to receive money, books, toilet articles, smoking requisites and other amenities of life from his friends?

(j) Is he getting any newspapers? If so, what?

(k) Is he kept in solitary confinement or kept along with other politicals?

(l) Is he allowed any indoor and outdoor games? If so, what?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) Yes. He was arrested in Bombay on 21st May 1944 under Defence of India Rule 129.

(b) Lahore Fort.

- (c) No
 (d) and (e) Yes
 (f) For reasons of security
 (g) No As he is not in the cells, the question of coming out of them does not arise
 (h) It is not a fact
 (i), (j) and (l) He is given the same treatment as other Class I security prisoners under the Punjab Security Prisoners Rules except that he is not at present allowed interviews

(k) He is not kept in solitary confinement

Mr. Sri Prakasa: What was the reply to part (l) of the question?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: Reference was made to the Punjab Security Prisoners Rules

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Could the Honourable Member kindly tell us exactly what the rule is in this connection?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: No, Sir, I have not got a copy of those Rules with me

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Can the Honourable Member be a little more specific in regard to part (j) of the question? Is he getting any newspapers?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I am afraid I have no detailed knowledge. He is allowed whatever is allowed under the Rules

PURCHASE OF MEAT, FISH, ETC., FOR THE MILITARY IN CHITTAGONG DIVISION

483. *Shaikh Rafiuddin Ahmad Siddique: Will the War Secretary be pleased to state

(a) if Government are aware that military people and their contractors purchase meat, fish and vegetables from the open market meant for the civil people in the Chittagong Division and thereby causing a dearth of these commodities and unspeakable hardship to the civil people, and

(b) if the answer to (a) is in the affirmative, whether Government be pleased to issue strict instructions prohibiting the purchase of civil commodities by the military and their contractors in the Chittagong Division

Mr. O. M. Trivedi: (a) No such complaint has come to my notice, but if the Honourable Member who is serving on the Chittagong Division Central & District Price & Export Control Board, will give me any further details, I will make enquiries

(b) Does not arise

Shaikh Rafiuddin Ahmad Siddique: Is it not a fact that on account of heavy military operations in Chittagong, the quantity of fish, meat, vegetables and other foodstuffs has fallen short of the normal requirements of the civil population? Do the Government propose to remove the sufferings of the people as the civil population can hardly bring the foodstuffs and other commodities from outside on account of the heavy military traffic in Chittagong?

Mr. O. M. Trivedi: Might I suggest to the Honourable Member that as he himself is a member of the Board, he should represent this matter at the meeting of the Board?

Shaikh Rafiuddin Ahmad Siddique: We have already represented this matter to the Board and a Government official, whose name I need not mention, requested me to ask this question. It is a fact that people of Chittagong are starving. May I ask what steps Government propose to take to mitigate their suffering?

Mr. O. M. Trivedi: I can only explain the general policy here. I know that in considering the contracts for local purchases, it is the policy of the military authorities to conform to local prices control regulations and a close liaison is maintained by the local purchase officers with the civil authorities to ensure that markets are not denuded to the detriment of the civil population. May I ask the Honourable Member to give me the name of the official member of the Board who asked him to put this question?

Mr. Mann Subedar: In view of the fact that a similar situation also exists in the City of Bombay, may I ask what steps Government are going to take or have already taken to control the military contractors who are not actually military men but are suppliers to military? Of course, the regulation read out by my Honourable friend does not apply to those who have merely contracted to supply to the military and it is these suppliers to the military who are playing havoc with civil population's food.

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: If the Honourable Member will put a specific question on the subject, I shall be glad to answer it.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: The Honourable Member has referred to the policy on this matter on more than one occasion. May I request him to undertake a regular official inquiry to find out what the actual practice is in this matter in different provinces?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: I have no reason to believe that practice does not conform with the policy.

LEGAL AID FOR DETENUS AT THE REVIEWS OF THEIR CASES.

484. *Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Will the Honourable the Home Member please state

(a) whether under the recent ordinance reviewing the detention of detenues, the detenues are entitled to legal aid,

(b) whether they are entitled to legal aid only for the first review or whether they are entitled to legal aid and representation, and

(c) the number of detenues released since the ordinance and how many are still kept under detention?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) and (b) The Honourable Member is referred to my reply to part (b) of starred question No. 70 on November 3rd.

(c) The Honourable Member is referred to my reply to starred question No. 68 on November 3rd.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: It is only a matter of saying 'Yes' or 'No' and we should have a categorical reply.

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I have given a reply.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Sir, I have asked whether the detenues are entitled to legal aid and the answer should be either 'Yes' or 'No'. Why should the Honourable Member refer to the answers given previously in this connection?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: Because the question was previously asked and answered.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I point out, Sir, that instead of giving the answer by saying one word he has used so many words and has referred me to the previous replies and thereby he has wasted the time of the House?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): If the answer has been given already, the Honourable Member is not entitled to ask that question again.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I ask him to read that answer?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: The answer to part (a) of question No. 70 was

"I regret that, for the reasons underlying the provisions of section 11 of Ordinance III of 1944, I am unable to comply with the Honourable Member's request. The statements of the grounds of their detention communicated to persons detained under that Ordinance comply with the provisions of section 7 thereof."

That is irrelevant to the Honourable Member's question. The answer to part (b) of Question No. 70 was

"No. For the reason that no question of law arises."

That is relevant to the Honourable Member's question.

STRICTURES PASSED BY NAGPUR HIGH COURT ON THE EXECUTIVE.

485. *Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Will the Honourable the Home Member please state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the strictures passed by a bench of the Nagpur High Court on the Executive of the Province for its attitude on man's freedom while directing the release of a detenu as reported in the *Hindu*, dated the 26th November, and

(b) whether Government have taken up this matter with the Local Government and taken steps that the Defence of India Rules are not abused by the Provincial Executives?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) Government have no official information on the subject

(b) No

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: In view of the fact that I have brought this matter to the attention of the Government, have they taken any pains to get the information?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I have already said that the answer to part (b) is 'No'

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: The reply to my question was that Government have no information. I have given the information and I would like to know what steps you have taken?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: None

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: But why did you not take any steps?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: Because the officials concerned are under the Provincial Governments

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: When the Defence of India Rules are misused and when the High Courts make strictures that they are so mis-used, is it not the responsibility of the Government of India to inquire into the matter and to see that they are used properly?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: Provincial officials are answerable to the Provincial Governments whether it is the case of the Defence of India Rules or of the Criminal Procedure Code

Sardar Sant Singh: In view of the fact that the Act has been passed by this Legislature and the power of making rules is given to the Central Government, if certain powers are given to the Provincial Governments and if these powers are being abused, will the Honourable Member see the desirability of changing that rule, so that there should be no abuse of powers given to the Provincial Governments?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: It is entirely a hypothetical question

Sardar Sant Singh: No, Sir. Questions have been asked in this House seeing the abuse of powers by the Provincial Governments against which even Judges of High Courts have passed strictures and is it not therefore the duty of the Central Government to see that this Rule is changed and that Provincial Governments use these Rules for the purpose for which they are framed?

(No answer)

(b) WRITTEN ANSWERS

ISSUES OF PAPER CURRENCY

486. ***Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state

(a) the latest statistics with regard to the issue of paper currency in India, and

(b) with what reserves these paper issues are backed?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) and (b) The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the weekly accounts of the Reserve Bank, which are published in the *Gazette of India*

ANTI-INFLATION MEASURES

487. ***Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state

(a) the steps he has taken to reduce inflation since the last session; and

(b) whether the paper currency has substantially reduced on its account?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Baisman: (a) I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to my reply to Dr Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad's question No 67 on the 3rd November 1944. What I have said there about the steps taken for stabilizing prices covers also the measure adopted for reducing inflation.

(b) As a result of the anti-inflationary measures taken by Government it has been possible considerably to retard the rate of expansion of currency.

PUBLICITY ORGANIZATION ATTACHED TO INDIA'S AGENT-GENERAL IN AMERICA.

488. *Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: Will the Honourable Member for Information and Broadcasting please state

(a) whether there exists a publicity organisation attached to the office of the Agent-General for India in the United States of America,

(b) the nature of its personnel,

(c) what its duties are,

(d) whether the determination of the type of publicity carried on by this organisation is in the hands of the Agent-General or the Government of India,

(e) whether the Government of India has satisfied themselves from time to time that the publicity carried by this organisation is in the best interests of this country?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: (a) Yes

(b) One Public Relations Officer and one Deputy Information Officer with Ministerial and Inferior staff. A second post of Deputy Information Officer exists but is at present unfilled. Action is in hand to fill it.

(c) The duties of this organisation are to circulate the flow and distribution of news about India, to provide interpretative and background material, and to supply editors and columnists with the information they require on Indian affairs.

(d) The Agent General exercises general control over all the staff who are appointed by the Government of India. The Agent General is himself an officer of the Government of India.

(e) Yes

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION AND ANSWER

CABLE TO MAHATMA GANDHI ^{RE} INDIA'S RETALIATORY MEASURES AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA.

Mr. Ananga Mohan Das: Will the Honourable Member for Commonwealth Relations be pleased to state

(a) if the attention of the Government of India has been drawn to the 12 Noon. *Reuter* news published in the *Statesman* of 11th November, 1944, to the effect that a cable has been sent to Mahatma Gandhi from South Africa, stating the discriminatory measures taken by India as a retaliation are against the Indian tradition of love, and requesting Mahatma Gandhi to give the lead by making a statement on the situation, and

(b) if the Government of India can make arrangement for sending Mahatma Gandhi on a mission of love to South Africa in view of his friendship with Field-Marshal Smuts?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: (a) Yes, Sir. I have read that news in the paper referred to, but a reasonable doubt may arise about the authenticity or correctness of that news since I have received a telegram from the self same persons which is rather contradictory to the news published in that paper. The telegram is from Dr Dadoo and Cachalia, Johannesburg addressed to the Honourable Dr Khare, Dr Deshmukh and the Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed, Sir Syed Raza Ali and Mr M A Jinnah. It runs thus

"Congratulate courageous stand (Stop) Immediate imposition sanctions Et Recall High Commissioner imperative (Stop) Community condemns Pretoria Agreement Just as repugnant Et disastrous as Ordinances, (Stop) Only Just demand unconditional repeal Pegging Act Et Full rights Citizenship."

It is evident that the position is confusing and it is for the Mahatma to clear it up if it so pleases him.

(b) If Mahatma Gandhi approaches the Government regarding such a visit the Government will consider the matter

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: May I ask if the Honourable Member has had anything to do with the inspiring of this short notice question?

Several Honourable Members: Order, order

Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam: Do the Government contemplate to withhold the application of the Reciprocity Act, in view of the information from South Africa that that step is not based on 'love'?

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable Member take the initiative in this matter (stop) If so (continua), when (question mark)

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: I am not familiar with the science and technique of love

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: Will the Honourable Member tell us which is the Department of 'love' in this Government?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) Order, order

MOTIONS FOR ADJOURNMENT

REMOVAL OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL 'FINDS' OF NAGARJUNA KUNDA

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) I have received notice of a Motion for Adjournment from Prof. Ranga. He wishes to move for the adjournment of the House "to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance, namely the removal of a number of archaeological 'finds' of Nagarjuna Kunda in Guntur District which are of special historical importance to the Andhras and the attempt of the authorities to transport them from Machala Railway Station to an unknown destination, despite the categorical reply given by the Department of Education, Health and Lands to Questions Nos. 244 and 247 of the 10th instant put by myself and Mr. G. Rangiah Naidu only a few days ago in this House to the effect that Government have no intention of disbanding the Nagarjuna Kunda Museum or removing the 'finds' therean to any other museum or place"

What has happened? Have these 'finds' been removed from India?

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Guntur *cum* Nellore Non-Muhammadian Rural) No, Sir, not away from India. I understand that the Honourable Secretary in charge of the Department of Education, Health and Lands has agreed to obtain additional information in regard to this matter referred to in this motion for adjournment. If the Honourable Member gets that information during the course of this Session, I shall then consider whether I will have to give further notice of the adjournment motion.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) It may be too late then. Does the Honourable Member wish to press his motion?

Prof. N. G. Ranga: May I request the Honourable Member in charge of this Department to get the information first?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) The Honourable Member should first make up his mind whether he is pressing this motion or withdrawing it.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: I press the motion, Sir.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) Has the Government Member got anything to say?

Mr. J. D. Tyson (Secretary, Department of Education, Health and Lands) Sir, I have got no information. According to the information on which I answered a question about a few days ago on the 10th, it is very unlikely that anything is being permanently removed from the museum but I am perfectly prepared to try to find out.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) Well, as the Honourable Member is going to find out what has happened, this motion cannot be moved to day.

**BARBAROUS METHOD ADOPTED BY VIRANGAM CUSTOMS OFFICIALS FOR
CHECKING PASSENGERS' LUGGAGE**

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) I have also received notice of a Motion for Adjournment from Sardar Sant Singh. He wishes to make a motion that the business of the Assembly be adjourned for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance, namely the barbarous method adopted by customs authorities at Virangam for checking the passengers' luggage for purpose of customs, thus causing avoidable sufferings to passengers including women and children.

I should like to know what the Honourable Member means by barbarous methods?

Sardar Sant Singh (West Punjab Sikh) The barbarous methods consist in this that the train arrives at 4 A.M., the passengers including men, and women are asked to put their luggage on their shoulders and walk to the tables on the platform and place their luggage thereon and then take back, after inspection by the customs officials, to the train. This is a barbarous method of enforcing customs regulations.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) That generally happens in most cases where luggage has to be examined by customs officials.

Sardar Sant Singh: I think the Chair also must have seen a report that appeared in the *Hindustan Times* of today's date in this connection.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) I have not seen that.

Sardar Sant Singh: May I read that report which appeared in the *Hindustan Times*?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) The Honourable Member need not read the paper. He has given notice of this motion and I want the Honourable Member himself to explain what are the facts.

Sardar Sant Singh: The facts are that on the land barrier between Katha-war and British India the train is made to stop at this station Virangam where passengers are forced to alight from the train with their luggage. A small platform is provided where there are some small tables. Every passenger is required to open his luggage and place it on that table for examination. They are then sent to another platform where their luggage is examined and they are then asked to take this luggage back to the train. The time of arrival of that train is 4 A.M., the customs officials are few in number, the examination takes a long time during which all passengers,—men, women and children,—are made to suffer.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) I am afraid inconvenience is almost always caused by examination of passengers' luggage by customs authorities. This can hardly be a matter for an adjournment motion. The motion is disallowed.

Mr. Manu Subedar (Indian Merchants' Chamber and Bureau Indian Commerce) Sir, I can endorse the complaint as I have been through it personally about two weeks ago. I have travelled all over the world but I have never seen such stupid methods of examining passengers' luggage.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) The Honourable Member cannot discuss the matter.

**DECLARATIONS OF EXEMPTION UNDER THE REGISTRATION OF
FOREIGNERS ACT**

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie (Home Member) Sir, I lay on the table a copy of each of the following Declarations of Exemption under section 6 of the Registration of Foreigners Act, 1939:

1. No. 1/17/44-Poll (E), dated the 15th April 1944
2. No. 1/19/44-Poll (E), dated the 20th April 1944
3. No. 1/22/44-Poll (E), dated the 2nd May 1944
4. No. 1/24/44-Poll (E), dated the 9th May 1944
5. No. 1/24/44-Poll (E), dated the 21st Sept. 1944
6. No. 1/24/44-Poll (E), dated the 21st Sept. 1944.

- 7 No 1/28/44-Poll (E), dated the 16th June 1944
- 8 No 1/29/44-Poll (E), dated the 22nd June 1944
- 9 No 1/30/44-Poll (E), dated the 12th Sept 1944
- 10 No 1/31/44-Poll (E), dated the 22nd June 1944
- 11 No 1/32/44-Poll (E), dated the 27th June 1944
- 12 No 1/33/44-Poll (E), dated the 27th July 1944
- 13 No 1/34/44-Poll (E), dated the 29th July 1944
- 14 No 1/35/44-Poll (E), dated the 9th August 1944
- 15 No 1/36/44-Poll (E), dated the 15th August 1944
- 16 No 1/38/44-Poll (E), dated the 22nd August 1944
- 17 No 1/39/44-Poll (E), dated the 14th Octr 1944
- 18 No 1/43/44-Poll (E), dated the 11th Sept 1944
- 19 No 1/45/44-Poll (E), dated the 7th Octr 1944
- 20 No 1/46/44-Poll (E), dated the 25th Sept 1944
- 21 No 1/47/44-Poll (E), dated the 4th Octr 1944
- 22 No 1/48/44-Poll (E), dated the 7th Octr 1944
- 23 No 1/49/44-Poll (E), dated the 18th Octr 1944
- 24 No 1/52/44-Poll (E), dated the 27th Octr 1944
- 25 No 1/53/44-Poll (E), dated the 26th Octr 1944
- 26 No 1/54/44-Poll (E), dated the 3rd Novr 1944
- 27 No D 2706/44-Poll (E), dated the 15th April 1944

HOME DEPARTMENT
Simla, the 15th April, 1944
DECLARATION OF EXEMPTION

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 6 of the Registration of Foreigners Act, 1939 (XVI of 1939), the Central Government is pleased to declare that the Provisions of the Registration of Foreigners Rules, 1939, except rule 8 and such of the provisions of rules 4, 14, 15 and 16 as apply to, or in relation to, passengers and visitors who are not foreigners, shall not apply to, or in relation to,—

- 1 Mr William K Miller, and
- 2 Mr Holland Hunter,

members of the United States Foreign Economic Administration in India, for so long as they remain in their present employment

A W LOVATT,
Under Secretary to the Government of India

No 1/19/44 Pol (E)
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME DEPARTMENT
Simla, the 20th April 1944
DECLARATION OF EXEMPTION

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 6 of the Registration of Foreigners Act, 1939 (XVI of 1939), the Central Government is pleased to declare that the Provisions of the Registration of Foreigners Rules, 1939 except rule 8 and such of the provisions of rules 4, 14, 15 and 16 as apply to, or in relation to, passengers and visitors who are not foreigners, shall not apply to, or in relation to, Miss Margaret M Mallon, U S national, Assistant Representative of the Overseas Operations Branch of the United States Office of War Information, for so long as she remains in her present post

A W LOVATT,
Under Secretary to the Government of India

No 1/22/44-POLL (E)
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME DEPARTMENT
Simla, the 2nd May 1944
DECLARATION OF EXEMPTION

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 6 of the Registration of Foreigners Act, 1939 (XVI of 1939), the Central Government is pleased to declare that the Provisions of the Registration of Foreigners Rules, 1939, except rule 8 and such of the provisions of rules 4, 14, 15 and 16 as apply to, or in relation to, passengers and visitors who are not

No 1/33/44-POLL (E)

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

HOME DEPARTMENT

Simla, the 27th July 1944

DECLARATION OF EXEMPTION

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 6 of the Registration of Foreigners Act, 1939 (XVI of 1939), the Central Government is pleased to declare that the Provisions of the Registration of Foreigners Rules, 1939, except rule 8 and such of the provisions of rules 4, 14, 15 and 16 as apply to, or in relation to, passengers and visitors who are not foreigners, shall not apply to or in relation to, Mr James V Sampalle, Port Engineer in the U S War Shipping Administration, for so long as he remains in his present employment

A W LOVATT,

Under Secretary to the Government of India

No 1/34/44 POLL (E)

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

HOME DEPARTMENT

Simla, the 29th July 1944

DECLARATION OF EXEMPTION

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 6 of the Registration of Foreigners Act, 1939 (XVI of 1939), the Central Government is pleased to declare that the Provisions of the Registration of Foreigners Rules, 1939, except rule 8 and such of the provisions of rules 4, 14, 15 and 16 as apply to, or in relation to, passengers and visitors who are not foreigners, shall not apply to, or in relation to, (1) Mrs Martha M deWilde, Office Manager, U S Foreign Economic Administration, (2) Mrs Selma Y Janow employee of the U S Foreign Economic Administration, (3) Mr Franklin E Griffin, (4) Mr William Henry Moroney, and (5) Mr Harold Kraus, Assistants in the U S War Shipping Administration, for so long as they remain in their present employment

A W LOVATT,

Under Secretary to the Government of India

No 1/35/44-POLL (E)

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

HOME DEPARTMENT

Simla, the 9th August 1944

DECLARATION OF EXEMPTION

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 6 of the Registration of Foreigners Act, 1939 (XVI of 1939), the Central Government is pleased to declare that the Provisions of the Registration of Foreigners Rules, 1939, except rule 8 and such of the provisions of rules 4, 14, 15 and 16 as apply to, or in relation to, passengers and visitors who are not foreigners, shall not apply to, or in relation to, Mr Robert B Landis, a member of the U S Foreign Economic Administration, for so long as he remains in his present employment

A W LOVATT,

Under Secretary to the Government of India

No 1/36/44 POLL (E)

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

HOME DEPARTMENT

Simla, the 15th August 1944

DECLARATION OF EXEMPTION

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 6 of the Registration of Foreigners Act, 1939 (XVI of 1939), the Central Government is pleased to declare that the Provisions of the Registration of Foreigners Rules, 1939 except rule 8 and such of the provisions of rules 4, 14, 15 and 16 as apply to or in relation to, passengers and visitors who are not foreigners, shall not apply to, or in relation to, Mr John L Plank, Foreign Representative for the Recruitment and Manning Organization of the War Shipping Administration at Calcutta, for so long as he remains in his present employment

A W LOVATT,

Under Secretary to the Government of India

No 1/38/44 POLL (E)

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

HOME DEPARTMENT

Simla, the 22nd August 1944

DECLARATION OF EXEMPTION

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 6 of the Registration of Foreigners Act, 1939 (XVI of 1939), the Central Government is pleased to declare that the Provisions of the Registration of Foreigners Rules, 1939 except rule 8 and such of the provisions of rules 4, 14, 15 and 16 as apply to, or in relation to passengers and visitors who are not foreigners, shall not apply to, or in relation to, Mr Robert G McClurkin, an employee of

A W LOVATT,
Under Secretary to the Government of India

No 1/39/44 POLL (E)
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME DEPARTMENT
Simla, the 14th October 1944
DECLARATION OF EXEMPTION

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 6 of the Registration of Foreigners Act 1939 (XVI of 1939), the Central Government is pleased to declare that the Provisions of the Registration of Foreigners Rules, 1939, except rule 8 and such of the provisions of rules 4, 14, 15 and 16 as apply to or in relation to passengers and visitors who are not foreigners, shall not apply to, or in relation to,—

- 1 Miss Sevilla McMullan,
- 2 Miss Flora B Luchington,
- 3 Miss Lucille Dudgeon,
- 4 Miss Nancy Bean,
- 5 Mr Collin McMullan,
- 6 Mr Harold Courlander,
- 7 Miss Florence F Brown,
- 8 Mrs Betty T Friendlich,
- 9 Miss Priscilla Leslie,
- 10 Miss Eugenia Bedell,
- 11 Mr Teg Grondahl
- 12 Mr Fred Rosenhauer,
- 13 Mr Oren Stephens, and
- 14 Mr Sydney B Wood

for so long as they continue to be employed in the United States Office of War Information

A W LOVATT,
Under Secretary to the Government of India.

No 1/43/44 POLL (E)
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME DEPARTMENT
Simla, the 11th September 1944
DECLARATION OF EXEMPTION

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 6 of the Registration of Foreigners Act, 1939 (XVI of 1939), the Central Government is pleased to declare that the Provisions of the Registration of Foreigners Rules 1939, except rule 8 and such of the provisions of rules 4, 14, 15 and 16 as apply to, or in relation to, passengers and visitors who are not foreigners, shall not apply to, or in relation to,—

- 1 Mr James L McCamy, U S citizen, being sent by the United States Foreign Economic Administration on an inspection trip to India, and
- 2 Mr Lester H Christen U S citizen, being sent by the United States Foreign Economic Administration as a member of a mission sponsored by the Army-Navy Petroleum Board, the British Government and the Foreign Economic Administration, to determine the necessary requirements of drum sheet, tin and tinnerplate for plants in India, for so long as they remain in their official capacity

A W LOVATT,
Deputy Secretary to the Government of India

No 1/45/44 POLL (E)
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME DEPARTMENT
Simla the 7th October 1944
DECLARATION OF EXEMPTION

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 6 of the Registration of Foreigners Act, 1939 (XVI of 1939), the Central Government is pleased to declare that the Provisions of the Registration of Foreigners Rules, 1939 except rule 8 and such of the provisions of rules 4, 14, 15 and 16 as apply to, or in relation to, passengers and visitors who are not foreigners, shall not apply to, or in relation to,—

- 1 Mr Harvey Leonard Shephard, a member of the U S Foreign Economic Administration, at Calcutta,
- 2 Mr Philip L Kelsor, a representative of the U S Foreign Economic Administration who is on an inspection trip,
- 3 Mr Bernhard J Paulson,
- 4 Mr B McCarty and
- 5 Mr James R Billman, clerks in the U S Mission, for so long as they remain in their present posts

A W LOVATT,
Deputy Secretary to the Government of India

No 1/46/44-POLL (E)

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

HOME DEPARTMENT

Simla, the 25th September 1944

DECLARATION OF EXEMPTION

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 6 of the Registration of Foreigners Act, 1939 (XVI of 1939), the Central Government is pleased to declare that the Provisions of the Registration of Foreigners Rules, 1939, except rule 8 and such of the provisions of rules 4, 14, 15 and 16 as apply to, or in relation to, passengers and visitors who are not foreigners, shall not apply to, or in relation to, Mrs Beatrice B Whitham, U S citizen, an employee of the U S Consulate at Bombay, for so long as she remains in her present employment.

A W LOVATT,

Deputy Secretary to the Government of India

No 1/47/44 POLL (E)

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

HOME DEPARTMENT

Simla, the 4th October 1944

DECLARATION OF EXEMPTION

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 6 of the Registration of Foreigners Act, 1939 (XVI of 1939), the Central Government is pleased to declare that the Provisions of the Registration of Foreigners Rules, 1939 except rule 8 and such of the provisions of rules 4, 14, 15 and 16 as apply to or in relation to passengers and visitors who are not foreigners, shall not apply to or in relation to,—

(1) Miss Frances W Page Clerk in the U S Consulate at Bombay

(2) Mr Berry O Baldwin Chief of the Stock Records and Control Section of the China Supply Division of the Foreign Economic Administration New Delhi

A W LOVATT,

Deputy Secretary to the Government of India

No 1/48/44 POLL (F)

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

HOME DEPARTMENT

Simla, the 7th October 1944

DECLARATION OF EXEMPTION

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 6 of the Registration of Foreigners Act, 1939 (XVI of 1939), the Central Government is pleased to declare that the Provisions of the Registration of Foreigners Rules, 1939, except rule 8 and such of the provisions of rules 4, 14, 15 and 16 as apply to or in relation to passengers and visitors who are not foreigners, shall not apply to, or in relation to,—

1 Miss Ruth Tesdale

2 Miss Marjorie Chubb

3 Miss Helen Kirkpatrick, and

4 Miss Elinor N Stevens,

United States citizens clerks in the U S Consulate at Calcutta, for so long as they remain in their present employment

A W LOVATT,

Deputy Secretary to the Government of India

No 1/49/44 POLL (E)

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

HOME DEPARTMENT

Simla the 18th October 1944

DECLARATION OF EXEMPTION

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 6 of the Registration of Foreigners Act, 1939 (XVI of 1939), the Central Government is pleased to declare that the Provisions of the Registration of Foreigners Rules 1939, except rule 8 and such of the provisions of rules 4, 14, 15 and 16 as apply to, or in relation to passengers and visitors who are not foreigners, shall not apply to, or in relation to, Mr Walter C Hand, U S citizen, Business Manager of the United States Foreign Economic Administration Office at New Delhi for so long as he remains in his present employment

A W LOVATT,

Under Secretary to the Government of India

No 1/52/44 POLL (E)

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

HOME DEPARTMENT

Simla, the 27th October 1944

DECLARATION OF EXEMPTION

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 6 of the Registration of Foreigners Act, 1939 (XVI of 1939), the Central Government is pleased to declare that the Provisions of the Registration of Foreigners Rules 1939, except rule 8 and such of the provisions of

rules 4, 14, 15 and 16 as apply to, or in relation to, passengers and visitors who are not foreigners, shall not apply to, or in relation to, Mr Lee G Seymour, U S citizen, for so long as he is employed with the Foreign Economic Administration, China Mission, New Delhi.

A W LOVATT,

Under Secretary to the Government of India.

No 1/53/44-POLL (E)

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

HOME DEPARTMENT

Simla, the 26th October 1944

DECLARATION OF EXEMPTION

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 6 of the Registration of Foreigners Act, 1939 (XVI of 1939), the Central Government is pleased to declare that the Provisions of the Registration of Foreigners Rules, 1939, except rule 8 and such of the provisions of rules 4, 14, 15 and 16 as apply to, or in relation to, passengers and visitors who are not foreigners, shall not apply to, or in relation to Mr Arthur W Smith, U S citizen Port Representative of the United States War Shipping Administration, for so long as he remains in his present employment

A W LOVATT,

Under Secretary to the Government of India

No 1/54/44-POLL (F)

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

HOME DEPARTMENT

Simla the 3rd November 1944

DECLARATION OF EXEMPTION

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 6 of the Registration of Foreigners Act, 1939 (XVI of 1939) the Central Government is pleased to declare that the Provisions of the Registration of Foreigners Rules, 1939 except rule 8 and such of the provisions of rules 4, 14, 15 and 16 as apply to, or in relation to, passengers and visitors who are not foreigners shall not apply to, or in relation to Mr Robert M Bums U S citizen Attaché in the Office of the Personal Representative of the President of the United States at New Delhi and American Vice Consul at Calcutta, for so long as he remains in his present employment

A W LOVATT,

Under Secretary to the Government of India

No D 2706/44-POLL (E)

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

HOME DEPARTMENT

Simla the 15th April 1944

DECLARATION OF EXEMPTION

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 6 of the Registration of Foreigners Act, 1939 (XVI of 1939) the Central Government is pleased to declare that the Provisions of the Registration of Foreigners Rules, 1939 except rule 8 and such of the provisions of rules 4 14 15 and 16 as apply to, or in relation to passengers and visitors who are not foreigners shall not apply to, or in relation to Mr Raymond Gerald Sweeney an U S national and an employee of the United Seamen's Service, Incorporated 39 Broadway, New York City for so long as he is employed

A W LOVATT

Under Secretary to the Government of India

NOTIFICATIONS UNDER THE CENTRAL EXCISES AND SALT ACT

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman (Finance Member) Sir, I lay on the table a copy of each of the following notifications in accordance with section 33 of the Central Excises and Salt Act, 1944

- 1 No 5-Camp, dated the 18th March 1944
- 2 No 6-Camp, dated the 18th March 1944
- 3 No 7-Camp, dated the 18th March 1944
- 4 No 8-Camp, dated the 18th March 1944
- 5 No 9-Camp, dated the 25th March 1944
- 6 No 10-Camp, dated the 1st April 1944
- 7 No 2, dated the 6th May 1944
- 8 No 7, dated the 6th May 1944
- 9 No 8, dated the 6th May 1944

- 10 No 9, dated the 13th May 1944
- 11 No 10, dated the 13th May 1944
- 12 No 11, dated the 27th May 1944
- 13 No 12, dated the 27th May 1944
- 14 No 9, dated the 30th September 1944
- 15 No XI-D, dated the 11th March 1944
- 16 No 14, dated the 28th October 1944

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE DEPARTMENT (CENTRAL REVENUES)
New Delhi, the 18th March 1944

NOTIFICATION
SALT

No. 5 Camp—In exercise of the powers conferred by section 37 of the Central Excises and Salt Act, 1944 (I of 1944), the Central Government is pleased to direct that the following further amendments shall be made in the rules published with the notification of the Government of India in the Finance Department (Central Revenues), No 5 Salt, dated the 4th February, 1928, namely—

In the said Rules—

(1) For rule 1, the following rule shall be substituted, namely—
“(1) In these rules, “Collector” means the Collector of Central Excise, Calcutta, and “Assistant Collector” means an Assistant Collector of the Department of Central Excise, Calcutta.”

(2) In rule 2, for the words “through the Collector of Customs to the Provincial Government of Orissa” the words “to the Collector” shall be substituted

(3) In rule 3, the words “of Customs” shall be omitted

(4) In sub-rule (1) and clause (v) of sub-rule (2) of rule 4, sub-rule (1) of rule 5, sub-rule (2) of rule 6 and rules 7 and 10, for the words “Collector of Customs” wherever they occur, the words “Assistant Collector” shall be substituted

(5) In clause (c) of sub-rule (1) of rule 6, for the words “deputed on behalf of Central Government” the words “deputed by the Central Excise Department” shall be substituted

(6) In rule 8, for the words “authorised by the Collector of Customs or by any officer of the Salt or other Department of a province other than Orissa” the words “of the Central Excise Department, Calcutta authorised by the Collector or any officer of the Central Excise Department of a province other than those within the jurisdiction of the Collector of Central Excise Calcutta” shall be substituted

(7) In sub-rule (1) of rule 11, for the words “Central Government” the words “Collector” shall be substituted

(8) After rule 11 the following rule shall be inserted, namely—

“12 An appeal shall be from an order of the Assistant Collector under these rules to the Collector and from any order of the Collector to the Central Board of Revenue.”

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE DEPARTMENT (CENTRAL REVENUES)
New Delhi, the 18th March 1944

NOTIFICATION
SALT

No 6 Camp—In exercise of the powers conferred by section 37 of the Central Excises and Salt Act, 1944 (I of 1944), the Central Government is pleased to direct that the following amendments shall be made in the Central Excise Rules, 1944, namely—

In rule 101 of the said Rules, in sub-rule (1) after the word “Bearer”, and in sub-rule (2) after the word “Madras” the following shall be inserted, namely—
“and the territories transferred from the Presidency of Madras to the Province of Orissa by the Government of India (Constitution of Orissa) Order, 1936”

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE DEPARTMENT (CENTRAL REVENUES)
New Delhi, the 18th March 1944

NOTIFICATION
SALT

No 7 Camp—In exercise of the powers conferred by section 37 of the Central Excises and Salt Act, 1944 (I of 1944), the Central Government is pleased to direct that the following amendments shall be made in the North Orissa Salt (Village Manufacture and Storage) Rules, 1943, namely—

In the said Rules—

(1) In sub-rule (3) of rule 1, for the words “Government of Orissa in the Orissa Gazette” the words “Central Government in the Official Gazette” shall be substituted

(2) For rule 2, the following rule shall be substituted, namely —

"2 *Definitions*—In these rules unless there is anything repugnant in the subject or context,—

(i) "Assistant Collector" means an Assistant Collector of the Department of Central Excise, Calcutta,

(ii) "Collector" means the Collector of Central Excise, Calcutta,

(iii) "Contractor" means a person appointed by the Government of Orissa for collection on their behalf of salt manufactured in accordance with these rules,

(iv) "Duty" means the duty payable under the Central Excises and Salt Act, 1944 (I of 1944),

(v) "Inspector" means an Inspector of the Department of Central Excise, Calcutta,

(vi) "Salt" means salt manufactured in accordance with these rules,

(vii) "Warehouse" means a warehouse established in accordance with rule 5,

(viii) "Warehouse Officer" means an officer appointed by the Government of Orissa to be in charge of a warehouse "

(3) In sub rule (2) of rule 4 and in sub rules (1) and (2) of rule 5, for the word "Collector" the words "Government of Orissa" shall be substituted

(4) For rules 7, 8 and 9 the following rules shall be substituted namely —

"7 *Officers in charge of Warehouse*—Each warehouse shall be in charge of an Officer called "Warehouse Officer" appointed by the Government of Orissa for purchase and sale of salt and an Inspector

8 *Procedure at Warehouse*—(1) Immediately after the arrival of each consignment of salt at a warehouse the Warehouse Officer shall cause the same to be weighed in the presence of the Inspector, record the result of weighing in the prescribed registers and shall forthwith store the same in the warehouse

(2) The Central Government shall not in any manner be liable for the price of the salt to the manufacturer or to the Contractor or to the Government of Orissa or for any damage howsoever caused to any salt stored in any warehouse or any "hat" depot or while in transit from one place to another

9 *Keys of the Storage Godown*—The storage godown in each warehouse shall be locked with two locks, the key of one remaining with the warehouse Officer and of the other with the Inspector "

(5) In rule 10—

(i) in sub rule (1) for the words "Central Excise and Salt Department" and "Government of Orissa", the words "Central Excise Department" and "Collector" shall be substituted respectively

(ii) in sub-rule (2) for the words "Warehouse Officer", "Contractor" and "Collector" wherever they occur, the words "Inspector", "Warehouse Officer" and "Assistant Collector" shall be substituted respectively

(6) In rule 11—

(i) In sub-rule (1) for the words figures and brackets "Indian salt Act 1832 (XII of 1832)" the words, figures and brackets "Central Excises and Salt Act, 1944 (I of 1944)" shall be substituted,

(ii) for the word "Collector" wherever it occurs the words "Assistant Collector" shall be substituted

(7) In rules 12 and 15 for the words "Commissioner of Excise and Salt, Orissa" wherever they occur, the word "Collector" shall be substituted

FINANCE DEPARTMENT (CENTRAL REVENUES)

New Delhi, the 18th March 1944

NOTIFICATION

No 8 Camp—In exercise of the powers conferred by section 37 of the Central Excises and Salt Act, 1944 (I of 1944) the Central Government is pleased to direct that the following further amendments shall be made in the rules published with the notification of the Government of India in the Finance Department (Central Revenues) No 21-Salt, dated the 18th May, 1934, namely —

I In the said Rules—

(1) For sub rule (2) of rule 1 the following sub rule shall be substituted namely —

"(2) In these rules—

(a) "the Act" means the Central Excises and Salt Act 1944 (I of 1944),

(b) "Assistant Collector" means an Assistant Collector of the Department of Central Excise, Calcutta and includes any officer especially authorised by the Collector to exercise throughout the area to which these Rules apply all or any of the powers of the Assistant Collector under these Rules;

(c) "Collector" means the Collector of Central Excise, Calcutta,

(d) "duty" means the duty payable under the Act,

(e) "Inspector" means an Inspector of the Department of Central Excise, Calcutta and includes any other officer of that Department duly empowered in this behalf by the Collector

(f) "manufacture" means every process by which salt is separated from brine or from earth or any other liquid or substance and includes every process for the purification or refinement of saltpetre,

(g) "Superintendent" means a Superintendent of the Department of Central Excise, Calcutta, and

(h) "Supervisor" means a Supervisor of the Department of Central Excise, Calcutta".

(2) In rule 3, for the words "Collector of the district in which it is desired to carry on the manufacture, and the Collector" the words "Assistant Collector, Orissa Division, who" shall be substituted

(3) In sub clauses (iii), (iii), (iv), (v), (vi), and (vii) of clause (d) of rule 4, and in rules 6, 10, 11, 12, 15, 16, 19 and 21, clause (b) of rule 22, and rules 23, 31, 38, 43, 48, 52, 54, 55, 57 and 59, for the word "Collector" wherever it occurs, the words "Assistant Collector" shall be substituted

(4) In sub clause (ii) of clause (d) of rule 4 and in rules 7, 8, 9, 15, 20, 21, 22, 24, 25, 31 and 48, for the words "Store Officer", "works officer" and "Works Officer or the Store Officer" wherever they occur the word "Inspector" shall be substituted

(5) In sub clause (iii) of clause (d) of rule 4 for the words "by Government" the words "by the Central Government" shall be substituted

(6) In sub clause (vii) of clause (d) of rule 4, for the words and figures "under the Bihar and Orissa Public Demands Recovery Act, 1914 as a public demand and payable to the Collector" the words "as it is an affair of land revenue" shall be substituted

(7) In rules 5, 12 and 13 subrule (2) of rule 15 and rules 34, 36, 40, 41, 43, 44, 45, 47, 48 and 57 the words "of Excise and Salt" shall be omitted

(8) In sub rule (1) of rule 15 and in rules 23 and 30 for the words "Excise and Salt" the words "Central Excise" shall be substituted

(9) In sub rule (2) of rule 24 for the words "Commissioner of Excise and Salt" the words "Central Board of Revenue" shall be substituted

(10) In rules 28 and 41, for the words "Commissioner of Excise and Salt" the word "Collector" shall be substituted

(11) In rules 35 and 36 for the words "Salt or police" the words "Central Excise" shall be substituted

(12) In rule 39 for the words "Salt Department, whose grade is not lower than that of a Sub Inspector" the words "Central Excise Department not below the rank of a Supervisor" shall be substituted

(13) In rule 48 for the words "Commissioner of the Division" the word "Collector" shall be substituted

(14) In rule 55 for the figure "9" the figures "10" shall be substituted

(15) For rule 56, the following rule shall be substituted, namely—

"56 All licensed works and all premises connected therewith shall be open at all times, by day or by night, to the inspection of any officer not below the rank of Inspector or of any officer deputed by such officer for the purpose"

(16) In rule 58 for the word "Sub Inspector" the word "Supervisor" shall be substituted

(17) For rule 60, the following rule shall be substituted, namely—

"60 (1) Subject to the provisions of these rules, an appeal shall lie from the Superintendent to the Assistant Collector from any order of the Assistant Collector and from any order of the Collector, not being an order of appeal, to the Central Board of Revenue. No appeal shall lie from any order passed by the Central Board of Revenue or from any order passed by the Collector on second appeal

(2) An appeal under subrule (1) shall be accompanied by an authenticated copy of the order against which the appeal is made and shall be submitted through the officer against whose orders it is an appeal

(3) No appeal under subrule (1) shall be admitted unless submitted within 3 months of the date of the order against which the appeal is made

II In the Form of license appended to the said Rules, under the heading "Conditions of the License"—

(a) In condition 4, the word "of" shall be omitted

(b) In conditions 4, 7, 8, 10 (a), 14, 15, 16, 17 (n), 23, 24, 25, 27, and 28, for the words "Collector" the words "Assistant Collector" shall be substituted

(c) In conditions 6 and 21, for the words "Works Officer" and "Works Officer and Store Officer" wherever they occur, the word "Inspector" shall be substituted

(d) In condition 9 (IV), for the words "factory officer" the word "Inspector" shall be substituted

(e) In condition 10 (c)—

(i) for the words "Commissioner of Excise and Salt", the words "Central Board of Revenue" shall be substituted,

(ii) for the words "Salt Department or whenever" the words "Central Excise Department or whenever" shall be substituted,

(iii) for the words "the Salt Department on his behalf" the words "that Department on his behalf" shall be substituted

(f) In condition 13, for the word "Government" the words "Central Government" shall be substituted

(g) In condition 13, 17 (1) and 19, for the words "Salt Department" the words "Central Excise Department" shall be substituted

(h) In condition 17 (1), the words "and all Gazetted officers of other departments" shall be omitted

(i) In condition 18—

(1) for the words "Commissioner of Excise and Salt" the word "Collector" shall be substituted,

(2) the words "of Salt revenue" shall be omitted

(3) for the word "supervisors" the word "staff" shall be substituted

(j) In condition 24, for the words "by Government" wherever they occur, the words "by the Central Government" shall be substituted

(k) In condition 28, for the words and figures "under the Bihar and Orissa Public Demands Recovery Act 1914, as a public demand payable to the Collector", the words "or if it were arrears of land revenue" shall be substituted

(l) At the end of the said Form, for the word "Collector" the words "Assistant Collector" shall be substituted

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

FINANCE DEPARTMENT (CENTRAL REVENUES)

New Delhi, the 25th March 1944

NOTIFICATION

SALT

No 9 Comp—In exercise of the powers conferred by section 37 of the Central Excises and Salt Act, 1944 (I of 1944), the Central Government is pleased to direct that the following amendments shall be made in the notification of the Government of India in the Finance Department (Central Revenues), No 6, dated the 29th May 1943 and in the rules published therewith, namely—

I In the preamble to the said notification—

(a) for the words, brackets and figures "Province of Madras or in the territory transferred from the Presidency of Madras to the Province of Orissa by the Government of India (Constitution of Orissa) Order, 1936, and in the Provinces of Bombay and Sind" the words "Provinces of Madras, Bombay, Orissa, and Sind" shall be substituted,

(b) for the words "Bombay and Madras", the words "Bombay, Madras and Orissa" shall be substituted

II In the said rules—

(a) for clause (1) of rule 2, the following clause shall be substituted, namely—

(1) "Collector" means, in relation to the Province of Sind, the Superintendent of Salt Revenue for Sind, and in relation to the Provinces of Madras, Bombay and Orissa, the Collector of Central Excise, Madras, Bombay and Calcutta, respectively

(b) in rule 10 for the words "Salt Department" the words "Salt/Central Excise Department" shall be substituted

III In the Appendices to the said rules—

(a) in Appendix A—

(i) for the words "current at Madras/Bombay/Karachi" the words "current in British India" shall be substituted,

(ii) for the words "Collector of Salt Revenue Madras/Bombay" the words "Collector of Central Excise, Madras/Bombay/Calcutta" shall be substituted,

(iii) for the words "Salt Revenue" "Salt Department" and "Salt and Customs" wherever they occur, the words "Central Excise" "Salt/Central Excise Department" and "Salt/Central Excise and Customs" shall be substituted respectively

(2) In appendix B, for the words "Collector of Salt Revenue, Madras/Bombay" the words "Collector of Central Excise, Madras/Bombay/Calcutta" shall be substituted

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

FINANCE DEPARTMENT (CENTRAL REVENUES)

New Delhi, the 1st April 1944

NOTIFICATION

SALT

Vo 10 Camp.—In exercise of the powers conferred by sub section (1), read with clause (viii) of sub section (2) of section 37 of the Central Excises and Salt Act, 1944 (I of 1944), the Central Government is pleased to make the following rule, namely —

Rule

Salt removed from saltpetre refineries in the Punjab, the United Provinces, Bihar, Orissa, Delhi or Ajmer Merwara, is hereby exempted from the duty imposed on salt by section 3 of the Central Excises and Salt Act, 1944 (I of 1944), read with section 2 of the Indian Finance Act, 1944—

(a) in the case of *sitta* (i.e., impure salt unfit for human consumption), to the extent of one rupee and eight annas per standard maund,

(b) in the case of salt other than *sitta*, to the extent of one rupee and one anna per standard maund

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

FINANCE DEPARTMENT (CENTRAL REVENUES)

Simla, the 6th May 1944

NOTIFICATION

SALT

No 2—In exercise of the powers conferred by section 37 of the Central Excises and Salt Act, 1944 (I of 1944), the Central Government is pleased to direct that the following further amendments shall be made in the North-Eastern India Salt Rules, 1939, namely —

In the said Rules—

(1) In sub rule (2) of rule 1, for the words "Collector of Central Excises and Salt, North Eastern India" the words "Collector of Central Excise, Calcutta, except Orissa" shall be substituted

(2) In rule 2—

(a) for clauses (i) and (ii), the following clauses shall be substituted, namely —

(i) "the Act" means the Central Excises and Salt Act, 1944 (I of 1944),

(ii) "Collector" means the Collector of Central Excise, Calcutta,

(b) clauses (iv) to (x) shall be renumbered as clauses (iii) to (ix) respectively,

(c) in clause (iii) as renumbered for the words "Central Excises and Salt, North-Eastern India" the words "the Central Excise Collectorate, Calcutta", shall be substituted,

(d) in clauses (iv), (v) and (vi) as renumbered for the words "Central Excises and Salt Department, North-Eastern India" the words "Central Excise Collectorate, Calcutta" shall be substituted

(3) In rule 8, for the words "the following fees" the words "a fee of rupees twenty" shall be substituted and entries (1) and (2) shall be omitted

(4) In rule 12, for the words "Salt Officer" wherever they occur the words "Central Excise Officer" shall be substituted

(5) In rule 23, for the figure "9" the figures "10" shall be substituted

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

FINANCE DEPARTMENT (CENTRAL REVENUES)

Simla, the 6th May 1944

NOTIFICATION

SALT

Vo. 7—In exercise of the powers conferred by section 37 of the Central Excises and Salt Act, 1944 (I of 1944), the Central Government is pleased to direct that the following

further amendments shall be made in the Bengal Salt (Village Manufacture, Storage and Transport) Rules, 1943, namely —

In the said Rules—

(1) In rule 2—

(a) in Clauses (i) and (v), for the words "Department of Central Excises and Salt, North-Eastern India" the words "Central Excise Collectorate, Calcutta" shall be substituted,

(b) for Clauses (ii) and (iv), the following Clauses shall be substituted respectively, namely —

(ii) "Collector" means the Collector of Central Excise, Calcutta,

(iv) "duty" means the duty payable under the Central Excises and Salt Act, 1944 (I of 1944),

(2) In sub rule (1) of rule 11, for the words "Excises and Salt Department North Eastern India" the words "Excise Collectorate, Calcutta" shall be substituted

(3) In sub rule (1) of rule 12, for the words, brackets and figures "Indian Salt Act, 1882 (XII of 1882)" the words, brackets and figures "Central Excises and Salt Act, 1944 (I of 1944)" shall be substituted

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

FINANCE DEPARTMENT (CENTRAL REVENUES)

Simla, the 6th May 1944

* NOTIFICATION

SALT

No 8—In exercise of the powers conferred by section 37 of the Central Excises and Salt Act, 1944 (I of 1944), the Central Government is pleased to direct that the North-Eastern India Salt Rules, 1939, as amended from time to time, shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to the territories within the jurisdiction of the Collector of Central Excise, Allahabad, provided that a fee of rupees fifty and twenty for each year or part of a year shall be levied in the United Provinces and the Province of Bihar respectively for a licence for the refinement of Saltpetre and the reduction of Salt therefrom

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

FINANCE DEPARTMENT (CENTRAL REVENUES)

Simla, the 13th May 1944

NOTIFICATION

SALT

No 9—In exercise of the powers conferred by section 37 of the Central Excises and Salt Act, 1944 (I of 1944), the Central Government is pleased to direct that the following further amendments shall be made in the North Western India Salt Rules, 1931, namely —

In the said Rules—

(1) In sub rule (2) of rule 1, for the words "Excises and Salt, North-Western India" the words "Excise, Delhi" shall be substituted

(2) In rule 2, for the words brackets letter and figure "clause (c) of section 6 of the Act" the words, brackets and figures "clause (ix) of subsection (2) of section 37 of the Central Excises and Salt Act, 1944 (I of 1944), hereinafter referred to as the Act" shall be substituted

(3) In rules 4, 11, 12, 14, 27 and 31, for the words "Salt Revenue" wherever they occur the words "Central Excise" shall be substituted

(4) In rules 8 and 9 for the words "Collector", Central Excises and Salt, North Western India" the words "Collector of Central Excise, Delhi" shall be substituted

(5) In rule 14 for the words "duly made under it" the words "duly made or deemed to be made under it" shall be substituted

(6) In rules 18, 19, and 20, for the words "Excises and Salt Department, North Western India" the words "Excise Collectorate, Delhi" shall be substituted

(7) In rule 25, for the words "salt officer" wherever they occur the words "Central Excise Officer" shall be substituted

(8) In rule 27, after the word "made" the words "or deemed to be made" shall be inserted

(9) In rule 29, after the word "rules" the words "made or deemed to be made" shall be inserted

(10) In rule 36 for the figure "9" the figures "10" shall be substituted

(11) In rule 39, for the words and figures "section 3 of the Indian Salt Act, 1882" the words and figures "section 2 of the Act" shall be substituted.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE DEPARTMENT (CENTRAL REVENUES)
Simla the 13th May 1944

NOTIFICATION

SALT

No 10—In exercise of the powers conferred by section 37 of the Central Excises and Salt Act 1944 (I of 1944) the Central Government is pleased to direct that the following further amendments shall be made in the notification of the Government of India in the Finance Department (Central Revenues) No 1 Salt dated the 12th January 1935 and in the rules published therewith namely—

(i) In the preamble to the said notification for the words Collector Central Excises and Salt North Western India the words Collector of Central Excise Delhi shall be substituted

(ii) In the said Rules—

(a) in clause (2) of the proviso to rule 1 and in rule 11 for the words Salt Department the words Central Excise Collectorate shall be substituted,

(b) in rule 2 for the words Assistant Collector Central Excises and Salt North Western India the words Assistant Collector of the Central Excise Collectorate Delhi shall be substituted

(c) in rules 8, 11 and 12 for the words Excises and Salt Department North Western India the words Excise Collectorate Delhi shall be substituted

(d) in rule 11 for the words Collector Central Excises and Salt North Western India the words Collector of Central Excise Delhi shall be substituted

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE DEPARTMENT (CENTRAL REVENUES)

Simla the 27th May 1944

NOTIFICATION

SALT

No 11—In exercise of the powers conferred by section 37 of the Central Excises and Salt Act 1944 (I of 1944) the Central Government is pleased to direct that the following amendments shall be made in the Notification of the Government of India in the Finance Department (Central Revenues) No 24 Salt dated the 9th December 1939 namely—

In the said notification—

(i) for the words Collector of Central Excises and Salt North Eastern India the words Collectors of Central Excise Calcutta and Allahabad shall be substituted,

(ii) for the words Province of Bengal the words Provinces of Bengal and Orissa shall be substituted

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE DEPARTMENT (CENTRAL REVENUES)

Simla the 27th May 1944

NOTIFICATION

SALT

No 12—In exercise of the powers conferred by clause (1) of sub section (2) of section 37 of the Central Excises and Salt Act 1944 (I of 1944), the Central Government is pleased to cancel the notification of the Government of Orissa in the Law Commerce and Labour Department No 7752 Com, dated the 23rd November 1938

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE DEPARTMENT (CENTRAL REVENUES)

Simla, the 30th September 1944

NOTIFICATION

CENTRAL EXCISE

No 9—In exercise of the powers conferred by section 37 of the Central Excises and Salt Act, 1944 (I of 1944), the Central Government is pleased to direct that with effect from

the 1st October, 1944, the following further amendments shall be made in the Central Excise Rules, 1944, namely—

In the said Rules—

- (1) in clause (n) of rule 2—
- (a) sub-clause (a) shall be omitted,
- (b) in sub-clause (d), for the words "Province of Madras" the words "Provinces of Madras and Coorg" shall be substituted,
- (2) in rule 201, the words "In the Province of Coorg, the Chief Commissioner, and else where in British India" and the words "his J" shall be omitted
- (3) in Appendix III, under the heading "Sections 14 and 21"—
- (i) in item (i) for the words "province of Madras" the words "Provinces of Madras and Coorg" shall be substituted,
- (b) in item (ii), for the words "Provinces of Sind and Coorg", the words "Province of Sind" shall be substituted

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

FINANCE DEPARTMENT (CENTRAL REVENUES)

Simla, the 11th March 1944

NOTIFICATION

CENTRAL EXCISES

No VI D—In exercise of the powers conferred by sections 6, 12 and 37 of Central Excises and Salt Act, 1944 (I of 1944), the Central Government is pleased to direct that the following amendment shall be made in the Central Excise Rules, 1944, namely—

In sub rule (2) of rule 1 of the said Rules after the word "including" the words "British Baluchistan and" shall be inserted

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

FINANCE DEPARTMENT (CENTRAL REVENUES)

Simla, the 28th October 1944

NOTIFICATION

SALT

No 14—In exercise of the powers conferred by section 37 of the Central Excises and Salt Act 1944 (I of 1944) the Central Government is pleased to direct that the following further amendment shall be made in the Central Excise Rules, 1944, namely—

In Chapter VI of the said Rules, for Rule 112 the following Rule shall be substituted—

112 *Retention of salt works, for which licences have been relinquished or cancelled, to be determined by Collector*—Salt works for which licences have been cancelled or relinquished shall be at the disposal of the Collector, who shall determine whether the salt works shall be retained within the salt factory or not

(a) If the Collector directs that the salt works shall be retained within the factory, the proprietary right of other persons therein if any shall thereupon vest in His Majesty and the Collector shall pay the value of such proprietary right to the late licensee. In calculating such value the value of the land as a site for salt manufacture shall not be taken into account. The Collector shall, if he admits the existence of such proprietary right, tender to the late licensee such sum as he considers to represent the value thereof, and if the sum tendered is not accepted or such proprietary right is not admitted by the Collector, he shall refer the late licensee to a Court of competent jurisdiction.

(b) If the Collector directs that the salt works shall not be retained within the factory he shall exclude them from the limits thereof and no payment for the value of any proprietary right shall be made.

(c) Whether or not the salt works are retained within the factory and the value of any proprietary right is payable, the Collector shall, in respect of salt works for which licences have been cancelled otherwise than for a breach of the conditions thereof or on conviction by a Magistrate for an offence under the Act, pay to the late licensee compensation at the rate fixed under rule 114.

Provided that no compensation under this rule shall be payable, if it is excluded by express stipulation in the conditions of the licence."

R J PRINGLE,

Deputy Secretary to the Government of India.

14/C No 150-SALT/44

Copy forwarded to all Collectors of Central Excise and the Secretary to the Government of Sind, Revenue Department, Karachi

By order, etc.,

R J PRINGLE,

Deputy Secretary to the Government of India.

THE BANKING COMPANIES BILL

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman (Finance Member) Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to consolidate and amend the law relating to banking companies

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) The question is

'That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to consolidate and amend the law relating to banking companies'

The motion was adopted

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Sir, I introduce the Bill

THE INDIAN RICE COMMITTEE BILL—contd

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) The House will now proceed to discuss the motion moved by Mr Tyson

Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta (Chittagong and Rajshahi Divisions Non-Muhammadan Rural) Sir, I made my position clear yesterday that although I am definitely of opinion that research on rice is absolutely necessary, at the same time I am also of opinion that this Bill as it stands will serve no useful purpose. I do not find any serious attempt made for real research on this vital problem. The provisions of the Bill are not such as to encourage any hope of real work.

Sir, yesterday I was dealing with the question as to the sort of committee that is proposed to be set up. I shall now come to the composition of the Committee. The Committee is to consist of 51 members and in view of the very small powers given to it it seems to me that the proposed committee is nothing better than a department of Government.

Then, Sir, I am interested in the representation given to my province of Bengal. Bengal, as is well known, has the largest acreage under rice, which is almost one-third of the entire area in India. And the production also is more than one-third of the entire production of rice in India. In sub-clauses (h) and (i) of clause 4 I find that the representation has been distributed among the different provinces, making some distinction between one province and another, and from the number of seats given to different provinces it is clear that the idea was to give seats on the basis of production or of the acreage under rice. On that basis I find in sub-clause (i) that three seats have been given to Bengal,—out of 14 persons representing rice-growers,—and two to Madras which is the second province in the matter of rice production. I do not quarrel with that. But in sub-clause (h) I find that out of twelve persons representing the rice industry and trade, two will be from Bengal instead of three. I do not understand this. On the basis of production and acreage more seats have been given to the rice growers of Bengal than Madras, and the same number (three) should have been given to Bengal to represent the rice industry and trade. I do not want any decrease for Madras. I hope I shall not be misunderstood. I only propose the same number in (h) as in (i).

Then with regard to the last clause under which the Central Government will appoint additional members up to five, I do not object to this 'safety valve', but I submit that these five seats should not go to officials but to non-officials; because, for officials there is plenty of representation in clauses (a) to (f).

Then about representation of trade and industry. I find in sub-clause (g) that two persons will represent the rice milling industry, one nominated by the Associated Chambers of Commerce and the other by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce. I do not understand why any distinction should be made between the rice industry and rice trade. My suggestion is some representation should be given to general commercial interests. I suggest that four seats should be given to commercial interests.

As regards the functions of the committee, they are laid down in clause 9. Although this clause is entitled 'Application of Fund', it really prescribes the

functions of this committee in sub-clause (2) I find that the programme is really comprehensive and very ambitious. If these functions which are assigned to the Committee are carried out properly and faithfully, it will certainly go a long way towards the improvement of rice position. But the misfortune is that although it is an ambitious programme, it is without any financial aid. What, after all, is the money proposed to be given to this Committee? The solution of food problem is certainly the business of the State, but we find that no contribution is made by the Government either initial or recurring. The whole burden has been laid either to the millowners, or to the growers, or to the traders. And not a *kauri* has been given by Government for this purpose, and that is my fundamental objection to the Bill.

In view of what has occurred lately, in view of the Bengal famine, in view of the scarcity of food almost all over the country, whose duty it is to pay for research in regard to the cultivation, production and marketing of rice and rice products? It is the primary duty of the Government, of all other duties, this is the foremost duty so that every man, woman and child can live. But for this work Government will not make any contribution at all, it has laid the whole burden on the trade. And what is the amount that is required for this committee? A sum of 54 lakhs of rupees only. In view of the ambitious programme which has been chalked out for this committee, it is certainly very small indeed, and yet this amount cannot be spared by the Government. How many lakhs and lakhs of rupees have been expended by the Government in all quarters in these days, but the burden of 54 lakhs of rupees is being thrown on the shoulders of the people. For that reason I am opposed to this Bill.

In regard to functions, I feel, Sir, that there is one function which is technically allotted to the committee—Grow More Food. If you want to grow more food, you must encourage the growers and you cannot encourage the growers unless you assure them a proper return for their cultivation. That is one of the aspects of the problem which must be gone into. This question was considered by the planning conference in 1934. My submission is that this function of the Committee (which is covered by the all-comprehensive terms of functions laid down in clause 9)—namely, to advise the Government on this economic problem, as to how a fair price can be effected and how the agriculturists can be assured of a minimum return, should be specifically allotted to the committee with particular reference to the return which the cultivator will get and the imports of rice from abroad.

There are one or two other matters which require consideration. For instance, clause 13 gives power to inspect mills and take copies of records and accounts. This will certainly be a fresh source of harassment to the millowners. Power is given to the Collector or any such officer to inspect the mills and take copies of records. It is laid down in sub-clause (2) that "the Collector or any such officer may at any time with or without notice to the owner, examine the working records." That is a drastic provision. Such an examination without notice is not contemplated even by the Income-tax Department. This provision—namely, records and accounts may be examined without notice—is very objectionable.

In the same clause, power is given to the Collector or any other authorised officer, "to examine any record or account containing the description or formulae of any trade process." I do not understand how this is necessary for research.

Recently in some of the Axis countries there has been a new concept of food as an all round political and military instrument. I do not know whether that concept has been adopted by our Government. The other day a certain gentleman heard some British officers say that famine would help them from a military point of view. Although I have no faith in the sincerity and wishes of the British Government, I do not go so far as to believe that there are an appreciable number of British officials who would like to bring about famine as a military weapon. Be that as it may, certainly it was the duty of the Government to make better provision for food in India.

[Mr Akhil Chandra Datta]

Yesterday, my Honourable friend Mr Hoo-embhoy Lalljee was preaching a homily as regards the virtues of research. Since people were starving, why not have a research department immediately without circulation, as if to say that the provisions of this Bill, as soon as it was enacted, would bring salvation to India with regard to food. My submission is that whether it is a political or military instrument this research department should have been established very much earlier, and the research should have been serious and intensive. We have made many attempts for promoting agriculture. All these efforts have failed because there was no sincerity in those efforts. India can grow far larger quantities of rice than it has been producing hitherto. Therefore you should find out the causes for this shortage and devise methods to improve the production. I have every sympathy with the avowed object of this Bill.

The Honourable Sir Jogendra Singh (Member for Education, Health and Lands): Can anything be more serious than placing the research scheme of rice in your own hands?

Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta: But the fact is that it has not been placed in my hands. It is not a *bona-fide* Committee. No powers have been given to the Committee. The Committee cannot ever appoint its own Secretary. Look at clause 17 of the Bill. It reveals the real character of the Committee. My submission is that having regard to the Bill as to the powers of the Committee *vis-à-vis* the Central Government, it is absolutely clear that it is a committee without powers. It is a puppet committee. Therefore, when Sir Jogendra Singh asks whether we do not want research, we say we do verily, but we also want a sincere attempt to have a research.

Some Honourable Members: The question he now put

Mr. Sri Prakasa (Allahabad and Banari Divisions, Non-Muhammadan Rural): It is not without great embarrassment that I rise to oppose this Bill. Both on public and on private grounds I experience this embarrassment on public grounds because such Bills are invariably of a plausible nature and the language in which they are couched is such that in ordinary person is likely to fall into a trap and feel that a great deal of good is likely to be the outcome of such measures on private grounds because the Honourable and venerable Member of the Viceroy's Council, who is really in charge of this Bill is bound to me and I to him by a thousand ties. He as one of the greatest friends of my father, was always a most welcome guest in our house in Benares and as a boy I always looked forward to his visits and I have always held him in great respect. It would have given me no end of pleasure to support anything that he said or did and I find myself very unhappy that I should have to oppose a measure which I understand he thinks will be a lasting monument to his service as a member of the Government of India. I am sorry that I should feel inclined to try to kill that child of his old age when I a child of his younger years should wish to live for a long time yet myself.

But, I have always said to this House that I was a very simple person, without any pretensions to complicated processes of reasoning. I am not always attracted to the language of law. What I want to know is how that law is to be applied and with such experience as we all have of the manner in which laws are actually worked in our country, I feel that we must be very chary when we give our consent to any such measure. So far as I have been able to find out from a careful reading of this Bill (and I have read it as carefully as it is possible for me to do), its main object is to constitute a committee; and the main purpose of that committee is to consolidate itself. It will have its officers, it will have its servants, it will look after its own interests more than the work with which it will be supposed to be entrusted. My friend Mr Essak Sait told us yesterday, from his experience of another committee, that that committee spent more money on its administrative side than for the purpose for which it was intended. A careful examination of the budgets of the Central and Provincial Governments will tell the same tale. So important

have servants of Government become (and the servants of this committee will have the same status, according to the Bill, as Government servants), that, as we know, in the official publications of this Government, the word servant is written actually with a capital letter against all rules of grammar, which I and my friends here have been taught in our earlier years. The Indian Civil Service is written with capital letters. The interests of the services are taken primarily into consideration, not the interests of those for whom these services are meant, and the interests of the services, themselves, are the primary concern of the Government and the people is a whole.

I fear that this committee will also go the way that all such committees, whether Government or quasi-Government, have gone in the past. Of course the Government is anxious that due provision should be made as to how the committee is to feed itself, and therefore there is an enforced levy and certain classes of the people will be forced to pay a certain amount of money in order that that committee should exist. That naturally means an addition to the cost of consumers. It is all very well to say that the cost is infinitesimal. All taxes are infinitesimal. Many persons in the villages only pay four annas or eight annas as rent or revenue or tax, but all these four and eight annas put together make the colossal figures with which the Government budgets deal. I am not going to be side-tracked by the mere mention of the fact that the tax is a very small figure. Then who ultimately pays? It is not the hulkers. Who will be taxed under this Act? On whom will the levy fall? Who will really pay? The consumers will have to pay. The growers will have to pay, and we all know that whenever a small tax or a small levy is laid by Government actually people have to pay far more than they should be required to pay, because there is always the pretence by the persons concerned that there is an extra tax to pay. The person who pays the levy pays a little less to the person from whom he buys the stock on which the levy is to be paid by saying that there is a levy. The tax has got to be paid by someone and so the tax is passed on to the others.

As regards the object, for which this committee is being constituted, I think that the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research such as it is should be able to further all those objects. There is no necessity of another committee. My Honourable and venerable friend said that he was sure that if researches were undertaken there would be an addition of four maunds per acre in the production of rice. If the Honourable Member has already made the necessary research, because of which he has come to this conclusion that there would be an addition of four maunds per acre, why does he not apply the results of that research straightaway instead of asking for further researches. When he is so sure that there would be an increase of four maunds per acre, simple-minded as I am, I take it that the Honourable Member has made his calculation as a result of the researches that he has made and has come to that definite conclusion. If the researches have been made, if the conclusions have been arrived at, I see no reason for further researches through this committee.

I do dislike the procedure that will be adopted under the terms of this Bill. There will be endless returns to make. We have had some experience of the way in which returns are demanded and returns are made. An Honourable friend from this side of the House has already spoken about the supposed shortage of paper. While we are starved on the one side so far as our requirements of paper are concerned, we are asked to make endless returns, which, I take it, must be made on paper and not on leaves of trees. I do not know how Government will find the extra paper necessary for such returns.

Then, Sir, the harassment that is caused in the demand for such returns is a thing to which I must take strong exception. There will be an extra cost that all persons concerned will have to undergo. Many shops have proprietors who look after all the departments of the activities of the shop themselves and who are not very literate. Many shops I know under the existing laws of control and other regulations have had to employ extra clerks in order to fill up the required returns. I do not see any reason why we should force these

[Mr. Sri Prakasa]

persons to employ extra clerks. It seems to me that the sole purpose of Government is just to give orders and we all in the land exist only to obey those orders. The Government never cares to see whether its orders are imposing an additional burden on the people or not, and if there is any so-called disobedience to any order, the punishment is prompt. Then we find the inevitable Collector coming into this Bill. Now let there be no mistake that the Collector is also the District Magistrate and neither he nor any other people with whom he has to deal, can ever forget that the man is not only a Collector but is also invested with vast magisterial powers. He can enter these mills, he can inspect these mills, he can ask his subordinates in cases of dispute to seal the books. We know what the result of this inspection and this sealing is. I am sorry to say that all these methods lead to bribery and corruption. It is all very well for Honourable Members opposite to say that there should be no bribery, there should be no corruption. But these are facts and Government does nothing to check them. Their very laws are so complicated that they actually encourage bribery and corruption, and just as in control shops many inspectors have their mouths shut because of the supply of cloth and other materials to them free of all costs, so I have no doubt that the Inspectors of this industry will also have their mouths shut by a supply of bags of rice free of all costs.

Then let us see to the punishment. That always falls on the non-official. There is no provision for the punishment of officials, for their misdoings. Of course I shall be shown clause 14(2), wherein, curiously enough, the Collector is also liable to imprisonment for certain acts. Whoever heard of a collector being prosecuted and sent to prison for six months? I have not heard it and, having been the victim of many Collectors myself and having been persecuted and prosecuted by them, I assure my Honourable and venerable friend opposite that I shall travel a thousand miles to see the prosecution of a single Collector, if he will only inform me that he has caught one on the hip. I do not think there is any police station which would accept a complaint against a Collector, namely, the District Magistrate of the district. However he is going to be punished I do not know. I think this is a misnomer; it is trying to throw dust into our eyes. No Collector in India can be prosecuted, no Collector in India shall be prosecuted—clause 14 or no clause 14! The whole thing will fall on us, all along the line. It is the story of the melon and the knife whether the knife falls on the melon or the melon on the knife, it is the melon that is cut all the time.

Then, this Collector will be the final authority, he will have absolute powers. Of course there is a provision that if some one is dissatisfied, he may write to the Central Government. No court shall take cognisance of anything done under this Act, but the Central Government may take into consideration such applications as are sent to them. Most of us have experience of applications to the Central and the Provincial Governments, and not only are we familiar with the fact that very often no replies are sent but we also know what troubles we invite upon ourselves by complaining thus. I do not believe that the mere putting into the Act a provision for the making of an application to the Central Government by an aggrieved person, can really bring him any relief. I therefore strongly object to many of the provisions of this Bill, especially to the provisions about forcible entry, about examination, about sealing, and if my proposal to end this Bill here and now is not carried and the Bill is circulated and ultimately gets into a Select Committee, I hope that drastic amendments will be made in order to save the people from unnecessary harassment.

There is in the end also the inevitable rule-making power. The rule-making power which the Government reserves to itself, in all such Acts, gives it practically, a power under which they can so act that the very purpose of the original legislation can be defeated. I am always suspicious of these rule-making powers and I therefore feel that this Bill first of all does not deserve our support and should be put out of court straight off: secondly, if the House

is not agreeable to that procedure, it must see to it that the Bill is amended in various vital particulars. Sir, I oppose the Bill.

Some Honourable Members: The question may now be put.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim). The question is.

"That the question be now put."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. J. D. Tyson (Secretary, Department of Education, Health and Lands): Sir, there is a saying about making two bites at a cherry. I do not know how many bites the House has had at my poor little grain of rice! This is about the fourth time that we have returned to it. It must be very appetising. I am grateful to my Honourable friend, Mr. Hoosinbhoy Lalljee for his support of this measure. I agree with him that the setting up of such a committee as we have in mind is an urgent matter. We had hoped to get a select committee during this Session and to get the Bill on the Statute Book at once. That would have enabled us to get the committee working before the next paddy season, the spring of 1945. In view, however, of the evident desire of the House, a desire expressed in several quarters but not in all quarters, to have opinions on the Bill, we have, as I indicated yesterday, agreed from this side of the House to support Mr. Essak Sait's amendment for circulation by the 28th February 1945, and in the circumstances I propose to make only a brief reply to the debate.

I am not quite sure that I altogether followed the attitude of the party immediately opposite me to the Bill. Mrs. Subbaroyan who thinks that the duty will fall on the cultivator considers that the burden will be a very heavy one. Mr. Chetty on the other hand, though he does not like the duty, considers that it is not a heavy levy at all and that it will not much affect either the consumer or the producer. Prof. Ranga wanted the functions of the committee widened in fact he pointed in contrast to the functions of the Food and Agricultural Organisation of the United Nations. Mr. Chetty on the other hand thought that the functions of any such committee should stop short at the harvest and that marketing and grading and standardisation should be done by some other body. I begin to see why the Congress Party, at all events, want circulation for eliciting opinions. I suspect they have not any opinion of their own about the Bill. My reading of the debate is that the House generally agrees that we ought to be undertaking, and prosecuting with vigour, research into rice, our major food crop. I think Mrs. Subbaroyan was the only member who thought that such matters should not be undertaken while there was still a food shortage. The proposal in the Bill which has evoked the most criticism has undoubtedly been the method we suggested for financing the Committee. The Honourable leader of the Congress Nationalist Party referred to it at the very beginning of his speech, he was the first speaker, and it has been referred to by many Members since. I propose, therefore, Sir, to devote the whole of my reply to this matter because it is fundamental.

Now it seems to have been assumed on the other side of the House that the cultivator will pay this duty. It was on that basis that Mrs. Subbaroyan drew a picture of the peasantry groaning under what she described as an additional tax on land. I think that this objection is mainly sentimental and is based on misunderstanding and nothing else. Who is going to pay the duty—not the miller, if he can help it. I concede that. And surely not the producer. To begin with, 72½ per cent. of the paddy grown in India, never comes to a mill at all and that 72½ per cent. therefore cannot be affected by the duty which we propose to levy only on the paddy which comes to the mills, namely, 27½ per cent. It is only the 27½ per cent. that comes to the mills that will pay the duty and as 72½ will not come to the mills, I do not see how the miller can "pass the baby" to the cultivator, even to the growers of the 27½ per cent. I see no reason to doubt that it is the consumers who will bear the burden in the end, the consumers of the 27½ per cent. of paddy that comes to the mills—in other words, the consumers of hulled or milled rice. (An Honourable Member: "No".) What is the burden? 2·7 pies, less than one pie a maund. This; I submit, is a microscopic burden, at any level of prices,

[Mr. J. D. Tyson]
in comparison with the ordinary fluctuations in the price of rice or the price of paddy from season to season or for different periods of the same season or between different parts of the country.

Leaving aside the price of rice or the price of paddy, take the incidental charges which form an element in the price. Take the element provided by marketing charges. Taking marketing charges at 4 annas or six annas a maund on a pre-war price of paddy of about Rs 2/8 or Rs 3, what is one price as against a figure like that, especially if one of the results of the labours of this Committee may be to reduce the burden of the marketing charges by far more than that one pice? The alternative to a levy of this kind by means of a duty on rice brought to the mills must either be an endowment or else a recurring charge on general revenues. An endowment, to produce 24 lakhs of rupees,—not 54 as, I think, one or two Honourable Members have stated,—would require locking up a colossal sum on the other hand dependence from year to year on grants from General revenues is a very unsatisfactory method of financing committees of this kind. It is unsatisfactory from the Committee's point of view, as I said in introducing the Bill, because it links the availability of money for research much too closely with the day to day or rather the year to year budgetary position of the Government and that, I think, is the last thing that you want in planning long term schemes of research. The Committee must know within reasonable limits where they are going to be financially from year to year and for a period of years ahead.

After all, who is going to benefit by research on rice? The producer certainly—primarily the producer, the miller also, because this Committee is going to deal with research on the technological side and ultimately also the consumer of rice, because we will be able to make it possible through this Committee to produce more and better rice. The burden is admittedly a small one. My Honourable friends on the opposite side have admitted that it is a small one. It is the principle that they do not like. Why should not this small burden fall on those elements of the population that are going to profit by the labours of such a Committee? Prof Ranga says that Government should pay or at any rate they should pay half. He knows perfectly well that Government have got no fund from which they can produce money for this purpose except what Government derives from the general taxpayer, including the poor man. You don't let the poor man off by putting this charge on General Revenues. Now, adavars we all pay taxes, poor as well as rich. So you don't let the poor man off when you place the burden on the general taxpayer, almost, really you spread the burden a little more widely. As I said, the incidence is small because it will be very widely spread already under the Bill. In principle, I can see no objection to the burden being borne by those who consume the 27½ million tons of milled rice. I see no objection in principle to that.

Most of the other points raised were of a subsidiary nature of which notice will no doubt be taken by those to whom the Bill will be circulated. We should in particular be very interested to see any suggestions that may be made as a result of circulation about the representation of consumers. So far, we have only provided for that element in the nominated section of the committee—" (1) such additional persons, not exceeding five, as the Central Government may appoint." I hope that, as we have agreed to circulation, we may get some suggestions on that point. As suggested by the Honourable Member whose amendment for circulation we propose on this side to support, we shall try to secure the widest publicity for the Bill. I believe that when we get all the opinions of those who stand to benefit by the activities of a committee of this kind, even those who have come this week to court may remain to bless.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is:

"That the Bill be circulated for the purpose of eliciting public opinion thereon by the 28th February, 1945."

The motion was adopted.

The Assembly then adjourned for Lunch till Half Past Two of the Clock.

The Assembly re-assembled after Lunch at Half Past Two of the clock, Mr Deputy President (Mr Akhil Chandra Datta) in the Chair

THE PAYMENT OF WAGES (AMENDMENT) BILL

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar (Labour Member) Mr Deputy President, I move

That the Bill further to amend the Payment of Wages Act 1936, be referred to a Select Committee consisting of Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haicon, Mr Muhammad Hussain Chaudhury, Mr Lalchand Navahat, Mr A C Inskip, Sri Vithal N. Chandavarkar, Mr N M Joshi, Dr Sri Ratanj Dinshaw Dalal, Mr D B Joshi, and the mover, and that the number of members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the Committee shall be five "

Sir, the Payment of Wages Act, to which the present Bill proposes to make certain amendments, was passed in the year 1936. This Bill, at the time when it was passed, was recognised as an experimental measure for the simple reason that when the Bill was drafted we had not before us any model piece of legislation on which we could have modelled the measure which is embodied in this Act. We have had now an experience of practically six years of this measure and in the course of the working it has been discovered that the Bill suffers from many defects. If I may tell the House, it has been pointed out that there are practically 30 or 40 amendments which it is necessary to make to improve the Payment of Wages Act. The Government of India realises that at present they have not got the time to devote to all the amendments to the measure which different parties have suggested and consequently they do not propose to engage themselves upon improving the Act and to remove all the defects that have been suggested. What the Government of India proposes to do through the present amending Bill is to take certain defects which are of such administrative importance that unless and until those defects are removed, it will be difficult to administer the measure with the intention which lay behind the Act when it was passed.

So, taking the Bill clause by clause. Clause 2 of the Bill seeks to make certain amendments in the definition of the word "wages". I do not wish to weary the House by repeating *seriatim* the defects which different parties to the Bill have suggested that they have found in the present definition of the word 'wages' as it stands. But I might mention some important ones. It has been said in a judicial decision given by the High Court of Bombay that the present definition of "wages" is so drafted that it is possible for a workman not only to claim wages which he has earned but also wages which might be called potential wages—wages which he might earn. That certainly was not the intention of the original measure. Another defect which has been suggested with regard to this definition is that it allows a workman employed on the outturn basis to claim wages irrespective of his outturn. It has been suggested that there is a confusion in the definition which does not quite distinguish the case of a workman employed on a time basis and a workman employed on outturn basis. It has also been suggested in certain quarters that some of the words which now occur in the definition are superfluous, that they need not be there and that their presence only causes confusion. I might refer to the words "includes any bonus or additional remuneration of the nature aforesaid which would be so payable". It has been suggested to us that these words may not have any meaning other than the one which is already included in the previous part of this definition. It has also been suggested that while the definition of 'wages' was adequate before the system of dearness allowance brought about by the war came into existence, the definition today is inadequate because it is open for an employer to argue that the dearness allowance is not part of wages.

Now, the definition that we have suggested in the amending Bill seeks to remove all these difficulties. It seems to make the definition simple. I ought to tell the House that I am myself not very confident that the draft, as it stands in the amending Bill, carries out the intention which lies behind this

[Dr B R Ambedkar]

original Act. I do not regard the definition which we have proposed as sacrosanct and if the members of the Select Committee are able to suggest a better one I should certainly raise no objection to the further amendment of the definition as it now stands in the amending Bill.

Coming to clause 3, it is a clause which makes two amendments to the present section 5. As the Honourable Members will remember, section 5 is a section which prescribes the period during which wages must be paid, and for the purpose of prescribing the period for the payment of wages, the section divides factories into two categories. In one category are placed factories which employ workmen whose number is less than 1,000. In the second category are placed factories which employ more than 1,000 employees. After making this division, the section provides that in the factories which come into category No. 1, payment must be made within 7 days, while in the case of the latter the limit of the period is prescribed to be 10 days. In actual practice it has been found difficult to observe the terms of this section, and the reason for that is very simple. The division of the factories is based upon the number of employees. As the House will realise, the number of workmen is never a constant figure, it always changes. For instance, if the number of employees goes down by one, the category automatically shifts from category No. 1 to category No. 2. Similarly, if the number of employees is increased by one, category No. 2 goes into category No. 1. It is believed—and I think very rightly—that this discriminating principle is neither very just nor administratively feasible. Consequently what the amendment seeks to do is to abolish this distinction whereby the factories have been divided into two categories and adopt the general principle that in all factories, irrespective of the number of employees that are working there, there shall be a uniform rule, namely, that the payment must be made within ten days. The second amendment which clause 3 seeks to make is also, as the House will see, very necessary. In section 5, provision is made for the payment of an employee who is discharged from service. The section as it stands today provides that the payment to a discharged employee should be on the second working day. Now, Sir, if the Payment of Wages Act was only applicable to perennial factories which are working throughout the day, there can be no difficulty arising from the section as it stands now. But in the case of seasonal factories, the difficulty that would arise is absolutely genuine because, supposing an employee was discharged on the last working day of the factory and the factory being a seasonal factory was closed down thereafter, then the second working day would come after a long interval which it would be difficult for anybody to imagine or to stipulate. Consequently the payment of wages to a discharged employee working in a seasonal factory would be indefinitely postponed if the provision as it now stands was not amended in the way suggested in the Bill. What we have therefore done by the amending Bill is to take away the word 'working' and substitute for the word 'second', the word 'third' so that where the factory is a seasonal factory or where the factory is a perennial factory every discharged workman will be paid on the seventh day and would not have to wait as he would have to in case the factory was a seasonal factory and the Act stood as it is now.

Now, I come to clause 4 of the Bill. As Honourable Members will see clause 4 proposes to make certain amendments in section 7 of this Act. Section 7 is a section which lays down what deductions can be made from the wages of a workman. Honourable Members will see presently that the section as it stands now does not cover all legitimate cases of deductions. I will draw the attention of Honourable Members to what are the omissions in the present Act. For instance, the Act as it stands now, or the section of the Act, does not cover the case of an employee who has left his employment, taken his provident fund and his gratuity and has lost the privileges which he would otherwise get if he had continued to be in service. It may be that for certain reasons, he had to resort to the expedience of obtaining a discharge from service in order to get his provident fund and his gratuity to meet certain economic

demands that may be very pressing upon him. After that, he is re-employed and obviously he is anxious to get back all the privileges which he enjoyed before his discharge and his privileges depend upon whether or not he is prepared to return the provident fund which he had obtained and the gratuity which he got. The workman is willing and prepared for such deductions being made, but the law does not permit this. I think it will be agreed that such deduction should be allowed because it is in the interest of the employee himself. But, as I said such a provision does not find a place in the Act, as it now stands. Then, Sir, there are certain deductions which may be beneficial to the employee and the employee may be willing that the deductions may be made in order to cover such beneficial purposes. Again, there is no provision for allowing the workman voluntarily to agree to make deductions which he thinks are beneficial to himself. The law is made by the amendment in order to make this permissible, subject of course to the Provincial Governments coming to the conclusion that the purposes are beneficial really. There are other omissions in section 7 as it stands and those omissions relate to cases of workmen who are employed in what are called incremental scales. This is a new thing in the Bill and I wish to explain to the House not only what the provisions are but the circumstances which have led us to bring forward this amendment. The sub-section (3) of section 4 deals with three cases. It deals with the case of withholding of increment of an employee who is employed on an incremental scale. It deals with the case of demotion from a higher grade to a lower grade with consequent deduction in salary. Thirdly, it deals with the case of retention of an employee in a grade, the deduction of salary being due to loss of efficiency. The reason why it has become necessary to bring forward these amendments embodied in sub-section (3) of section 4 is that it has its origin in a decision given by the Judicial Commissioner of Sind. It was a case in which an employee who is, I believe an Engine driver, was concerned. His grade was maintained, but his salary was reduced. He went to a court of law for redress and pleaded that the reduction of his salary, while he was continued in the grade, was a deduction unauthorised by law. The Judge upheld the contention and said that that was an unauthorised deduction. But the Judge observed that if there was a new contract entered into with an employee telling him that as his efficiency was not of the required level and standard to discharge his duties that are incumbent upon an officer holding that particular grade, and if the new contract was accepted by him, then the deduction would be justifiable. Now, what I have done in the Bill is to accept the suggestion made by the Judge, namely, that whenever there is a case of an officer whose grade is not reduced, but whose salary is reduced on account of the fact that he is not found to be as efficient as the responsibilities of the post require, the deduction shall not come into existence unless the period of notice that his service requires shall be fulfilled. Now, Sir, the object of that provision is really to give him one month's notice. This completed or simplified procedure would be to give him a legal notice and to say, "We are not prepared to pay you the same salary that we paid before; if you like, continue on the new basis, if you do not like it, discontinue and go out of service". Instead of having that elongated process of two equations, notice and reply, offer and rejection, we have combined the process by delaying the operation of the reduction decision by the period of notice, so that before the period of notice expires if he tells his employer that he is not prepared to accept, he would be at liberty to go out. I should like to make this point clear because it might be argued that in bringing forward these amendments we have really tried to counteract or set at naught or nullify the decision of the Additional Judicial Commissioner and I want to tell the House that I am doing nothing of the kind but am merely following the decision of the Judicial Commissioner in the amendments which we have proposed.

With regard to the other two amendments, *vis*, the withholding of increments and demotion from a higher grade to a lower grade, there can be no matter of controversy, for the simple reason that a person is promoted from a

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lower to a higher grade only when the employer is satisfied that by the experience that he has had in the grade in which he has been serving he will be able to acquire such greater experience and greater efficiency that he can be legitimately expected to discharge the responsibilities of the higher grade. When, for instance, he has not been promoted there is no grievance, for the simple reason that he has not earned something which is sought to be taken away.

Similarly with regard to the other provision, *viz.*, demotion from a higher to a lower grade, I do not think there can be any legitimate grievance in this kind of deduction, for the simple reason that when a man has lost so much efficiency that an employer does not think that he can be retained in the same grade, I think it is justifiable to reduce him because the reduction in salary is also accompanied by reduction of responsibility.

Now coming to clause 5 of the Bill it is a very simple clause. It seems to amend sub-section (7) of section 8. Sub-section (6) of section 8 deals with the question of the time within which the fine imposed by an employer may be recovered. The question that arises is, when does the time run? Does it run from the date when the offence was committed or does it run from the date when the employer came to know that a certain act or omission was done? Obviously it is not always possible for an employer to know at the very time when an act was committed that it had been committed, it often happens that an act is committed and knowledge of it comes to the employer after a very long time. Consequently, it is felt necessary that the point of time from which limitation should run should not be the date of the offence but the date of the knowledge, and I should like to tell the House that in amending this provision we are not introducing anything that is novel. As lawyer Members of the House would know, there are many provisions in the law of limitation where the time in some cases runs from the date of the act and in some cases from the knowledge of the act.

Coming to clause 6, this seeks to amend section 9 of the Act. Section 7 (2) (b) permits deductions being made on account of absence from duty. Unfortunately there is no definition given in the Act itself as to what is meant by 'absence from duty'. This clause removes this lacuna and adds a second explanation to section 9 where the expression 'absence from duty' is now sought to be defined. Clause 7 amends section 13, and that again is purely consequential, it is not a substantial provision. It makes section 13 applicable to the two of the new deductions contained in clause 4 of the Bill. As Honourable Members know, section 13 makes deductions permissible subject to such conditions as the Provincial Government may impose. We also want that the new deductions which the new amendment permits shall also be subject to the same proviso.

The last clause amends section 17 of the Act which regulates the right of appeal. As it stands the section gives a right of appeal to an employed person but does not give it to the Inspector who is the administrative authority for administering this particular Act. It is felt that it would be advisable in the interest of all, and particularly in the interest of the employees, for the Inspector also to have the right to make an appeal.

These, Sir, are the provisions of the Bill. I submit they are non-controversial and I believe and hope that the House will be able to accept my motion.

Sir, I move

Mr. Deputy President (Mr Akhul Chandra Datta) Motion moved

"That the Bill further to amend the Payment of Wages Act 1936 be referred to a Select Committee consisting of Seth Yusuf Abdulaziz Haroon, Mr Muhammad Hussain Chaudhury, Mr Lalchand Navalmi, Mr A. C. Inskip, Sir Vithal N. Chandavarkar, Mr N. M. Joshi, Dr Sir Ratanji Dinshaw Dalal, Mr D. S. Joshi, and the mover, and that the number of members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the Committee shall be five."

Mr. N. M. Joshi (Nominated Non-Official). Sir, I move.

"That the Bill be circulated for the purpose of eliciting public opinion thereon."

Sir, the Honourable Mover said that the amendments proposed by him to

the Payment of Wages Act were only administrative amendments and were non-controversial. I do not understand the meaning of administrative difficulties or administrative amendments, nor do I understand the meaning of the phrase 'non-controversial', because I feel myself that most of these amendments proposed are controversial, at least in the sense that I do not approve of them.

The Statement of Objects and Reasons indicates and the speech of the

3 P.M. Honorable the Labour Member also indicated that this legislation requires modification in order that it may be improved. I have no doubt, Sir, that it requires improvement, and I feel that the most important improvement which this piece of legislation requires is the extension of this legislation to the industries to which at present it does not apply. The present Act applies to what are known as 'factory industries' as well as to the Indian Railways, but the Act has given power to the Provincial Governments to extend its application to various industries like mines, plantations, transport industry (besides Railways), and several other industries. Unfortunately the Provincial Governments have not made use of the power given to them, and I therefore thought that the Honourable the Labour Member having waited for action on behalf of the Provincial Governments for six years would extend the application of the Act to the various industries to which the application was thought necessary by the Legislature when it passed the legislation. Unfortunately the Honourable the Labour Member did not do anything of the kind. He perhaps thought that that was not administrative reform, it was something else. That is not my explanation. My explanation for the Honourable Member not undertaking these important improvements in the legislation is that only recently the Honourable Member introduced and got committed

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir (Bombay City Non-Muhammadan Urban) Mr. Deputy President, I rise to a point of order. We are discussing a Bill with a certain number of clauses which go to amend certain sections of an Act. Can any Honourable Member address the House on other sections of the Act which are not included in the Bill? He is speaking outside the scope of the Bill.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee (Calcutta Suburbs Non-Muhammadan Urban) It is a general discussion.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: The general discussion is confined to the Bill, it is not on the whole Act. If he wants to move other amendments to other sections of the Act, he must bring forward a Bill of his own. This is not the place or the time, I contend, Mr. Deputy President, to discuss other sections of the Act which are not mentioned in the Bill. I consider his speech, therefore, to that extent is out of order.

Mr. N. C. Chunder (Calcutta Non-Muhammadan Urban) Is it not open to a member to speak here and suggest that the Bill does not go far enough?

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Sir, the Statement of Objects and Reasons says

"The Payment of Wages Act 1936, when passed was recognised to be an experimental piece of legislation. During its working a number of defects and difficulties have come to notice. While many of them can be left to be dealt with by comprehensive legislation at a later date, it is considered necessary to remove a few even during war time and the Bill seeks to achieve this object."

The Honourable Member stated in his speech that he did not undertake the extensive reforms which are needed. I am only saying that the Honourable Member should have done that. I have not gone out of the scope of the Bill at all. I therefore appeal that I am quite in order in saying that the Honourable Member should have introduced a better measure.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta) I think that Mr. Joshi is perfectly in order. He is criticising the speech of the Honourable Member as regards the scope of amendments. He suggests that there are many other amendments to make and I think that he is quite within his rights to say so.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Sir, my explanation for the Honourable Member's failure to introduce improvements in the Bill is that recently the Honourable Member introduced a Bill which I consider to be quite progressive, though inadequate

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it was—the Bill regarding holidays with pay—and I expected that the Honourable Member will keep up his progressive spirit. But, Sir, I feel that the Honourable Member somehow was afraid that if he introduced progressive Bills one after another then the character of the Government of India for being a conservative Government may be lost, and he did not like to take discredit for that.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: Discredit or credit?

Mr. N. M. Joshi: I thought that in his opinion it may be discredit. Therefore, I thought, Sir, that the Honourable Member having introduced one progressive measure wanted to introduce at least one which may be regarded as reactionary so that the Government of India's character may be maintained.

Mr. Sri Prakasa (Allahabad and Jhansi Divisions Non-Muhammadan Rural) Which has no character!

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Sir, that is my explanation, but I shall not deal with that aspect any further.

As regards the amendments themselves, after having studied all the amendments I feel that most of them are of reactionary nature and most of them are not also such that the Honourable Members of the legislatures should not have taken a little more time to study them. I feel, Sir, that the Honourable Member should have chosen, if he wanted any urgent reforms, some other improvements than those which he has introduced in this Bill.

Now, Sir, I am suggesting that the Bill be circulated because I had not heard at all about some of the amendments before. As a matter of fact, before I came to Delhi I had just read in a newspaper that the Honourable Member was going to introduce a Bill for amending Payment of Wages Act. I myself did not know what the amendments were and when the Bill was introduced I read those amendments and I thought that the Honourable Member should not have been in a hurry to introduce these amendments. There is no doubt that there are one or two amendments about which I had heard before although definite proposals of the Government of India were not known to me. I do feel that this Bill affects the working classes of this country adversely and there is absolutely no urgency for it. This Bill should be circulated. Let the working classes know what the Bill is. Let their opinions be elicited. Then certainly the Legislature is entitled to consider this Bill, although in my judgment it is a very reactionary Bill. So I feel, Sir, that the House will support the motion which I have made that the Bill be circulated.

Now I shall not be long in dealing with the various amendments which the Honourable Member has introduced.

First he took up the question of the new definition of wages. The Statement of Objects and Reasons and also the Honourable Member's speech indicated why he thought that the amendment was necessary. He stated that this Bill would permit, what I may call, payment, or what the Honourable Member stated payment according to the outturn, or payment by results. I do not think that the Honourable Member should have felt any difficulty about this. Payment by results or payment by outturn has been going on for six years after the Bill was passed and I do not think, Sir, any real difficulty has been experienced. Then the Statement of Objects and Reasons had stated something about profit-sharing and also dearness allowance. Personally, I feel that a real difficulty has not arisen about these matters at all and the Government of India has anticipated difficulties and are trying to take measures in anticipation. I feel there was no urgency from that point of view also. If the Bill is passed, it will certainly introduce a definition which will bring into being certain practices which the original Act was intended to prevent.

I shall give you an example. The original Act wanted to prevent payment of bonuses for regularity of attendance. There are practices where employers pay a certain bonus if a workman attends a certain number of days in a month, or if a workman's conduct is considered to be good by the employer he is given

certain bonuses. The Legislature in 1936 deliberately framed the definition of wages in such a way that these practices should be stopped. The Legislature thought that by giving inducements for regularity or for good conduct, the workman himself may be demoralised and also the employer. Therefore they wanted to stop these practices. From the labour point of view there is another objection to these bonuses, namely, the labour strength and solidarity is weakened when half of them are paid some bonus and half of them are not paid.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr Akhil Chandra Datta) May I point out to the Honourable Mover of the motion that his motion must be given a date. This is obligatory under the rules.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: If it is obligatory then you may permit me to move.

"That the Bill be circulated for the purpose of eliciting public opinion thereon by the 28th February, 1945."

Mr. Deputy President (Mr Akhil Chandra Datta). It is in order now and you may proceed.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: This definition that the Honourable Member has introduced is changing the original intention of that Act. I personally believe, Sir, that the working classes in this country do not require special inducements of bonuses to make them good honest workmen and therefore this practice of giving special inducements—what I may call in vulgar language bribes—should not be allowed, and the Legislature should never tolerate this practice because when we do our work as legislators we do not ask for special inducements in order to make us do our work quite honestly. We never ask for titles and honours for doing our work honestly. Similarly, a good workman asks nothing more but to be paid well and if he is paid well he is ready to give honest good, hard work. Therefore, Sir, I feel that the change introduced by this measure is a wrong one and requires to be examined fully. That is why I say let the working classes know what change is going to be effected by this definition and thereafter we shall consider the amendment.

Then the Honourable Member has introduced certain amendments to section 5. One of the amendments provides that in respect of the smaller factories employing 1,000 persons or less and making payments before the seventh day of the month, they may be permitted to make payments up to the 10th. In England and in, what I may call, progressive countries wages are paid 2 or 3 days after they are due. In India we have given longer period. That period itself is a very long one and I thought when the Honourable Member for Labour was going to amend this Act he would amend it in a progressive way, i.e., if he found any difficulty in having two kinds of periods, that is the ten, and seven days, he would fix the seven days as the period for making payment. But in order to keep up his character of being conservative or reactionary, he fixes the date of payment before ten days. I thought the amendment was really out of date and not in keeping with the progressive times.

Then the Honourable Member has made another change about removing the words "second working" day and replacing it with the word "third". He said there is difficulty regarding seasonal factories. Perhaps there may be some difficulty but it has not been experienced up to this time, it has not come to my notice at any rate. But if the Honourable Member felt that some amendment was necessary to enable payment to be made when a seasonal factory closes, or even a perennial factory closes, then, Sir, he could make that as an exception. But he makes an amendment by which all employers can refuse to pay a workman who leaves his job till the third day. Now the original Act had done some injustice to the workman. When a man terminates his services, a good employer pays him on the date of his dismissal or discharge, because if the payment is not made on that day the workman has to wait one or two days for receiving payment for the services rendered and he loses wages for those days. If a man is dismissed and if he has to go to the mill to receive his payment the next day, he loses one day's wages. If he has to come there on the third day he loses three days' wages. I feel that if the Honourable Member wanted to provide for the difficulty which is felt in the case of seasonal

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factories and when a factory is closed, he could have removed that difficulty in a different way to what he is doing.

Then, Sir, the Honourable Member has now introduced some other change, permitting some deductions, and the Honourable Member has introduced a general clause by which Provincial Governments are given power to permit any deductions which in the opinion of the Provincial Government are beneficial to workmen. Now, Sir, the Honourable Member may have great confidence in the Provincial Governments and I too have some confidence in them, and I know some of them sometimes do some good service to labour. But, Sir, I am not prepared to give such a wide power to the Provincial Government. In his speech the Honourable the Labour Member said that these deductions may be voluntary but they may not be voluntary. In any case his Bill does not provide that these deductions which the Provincial Governments may sanction will be all voluntary. No, Sir, that is not provided in the Bill itself that may be his intention. I do not approve of this clause giving general power to the Provincial Government to sanction deductions, which, in the opinion of the Provincial Government, are beneficial.

Then there is this question about stopping of movements and degrading workmen or asking them to take up less skilled work, so that then wages may be reduced. The Honourable Member quoted a judgment of the Sind Government that certain practices which prevailed on Indian Railways should be sanctioned by law. When the Payment of Wages Act was passed the Railway authorities, who are in the habit of imposing huge fines upon their employees found, that they could not exercise their authority uncontrolled. The Payment of Wages Act controlled their authority to a great extent and they wanted to gain that authority again by a different way. Instead of fining a workman, they began to degrade him, stop his promotion or put him on a less paid job. I feel that these practices were against the spirit of the original Payment of Wages Act and therefore the amendments suggested by the Honourable Member are not in the interests of the working classes. In any case before these amendments are considered by a Select Committee, it is absolutely necessary that the Railway workmen, who will be mostly the persons affected by this amendment, should know what is being done by the Legislature and therefore the Bill should be circulated.

Then Sir the Honourable Member has also introduced certain other amendments, one of them regarding permitting certain deductions for absence.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I have only given the definition of absence. I have not permitted deductions. They are already there.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: I know. The Honourable Member is a very simple man. He has changed the definition of absence with the result that certain deductions may be permitted. The original Act permits deductions for absence up to a certain point. The deductions may be made for the actual time lost or work not done. But if this Amendment is made, and if I understand it rightly, it is quite possible for an employer to impose double fine on the employee.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: That is not correct.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: All right. We shall discuss it at the proper time. What may happen is this: an employee is absent for an hour. He cannot turn out work for that hour and therefore if he is paid on piece rate his wages are automatically reduced. Besides receiving less wages, it is quite possible that if this Amendment is made, the man's wages may be deducted still further.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: No, no.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: The Honourable Member says No. We shall discuss that question, which is one of interpretation.

There is another amendment which the Honourable Member has suggested and that amendment is to enable the workman to be fined after the offending or wrong act was detected. This amendment I consider to be very reasonable but I am afraid this amendment is one which enables the employer to

keep the sword of Damocles hanging over the head of workmen, for how long, I do not know. A workman does some offending act, a small thing like coming late by an hour or two on a particular day. The employer's register is maintained by a time-keeper or somebody else but the employer has not noticed that the man was absent for an hour or two and therefore has not deducted his wages. After two or three years the employer finds out that the man was absent and therefore must be fined. I am not suggesting that this is a very happy example; there may be some other examples. But the offending act may be committed today and the employer may fine the workman after five or ten years. He says there is no law of limitation. The employer may be negligent, careless and not vigilant and yet if he discovers the offence of the workman after five or ten years, the latter must be fined. Sir, the Legislature should not sanction such a thing. The Legislature was very reasonable when it passed the Act. What the Legislature said was that a man after doing something wrong should not be fined after sixty days. That is, the Legislature has given the employer sixty days' time to find out if his employee has done anything wrong. I think sixty days are quite enough for a vigilant employer to find out the mistake or wrong committed by his employee. I do not wish to go into all the amendments which the Honourable Member has suggested. I feel that the amendments which are proposed are such that they will adversely affect the interests of the working classes in this country. In any case they are not very urgent. I therefore feel that the motion which I have made may be approved by the Legislature and after the Bill is circulated and the opinions of the working classes are obtained, the Legislature may consider the further stages of this Bill. In any case the Legislature should not consider this motion for committing the Bill to a Select Committee till the opinions of the working classes are obtained on this Bill.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta) Amendment moved

That the Bill be referred to the House of Commons for their opinion thereon by the 28th February, 1945.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai (Sind Non-Muhammadan Rural) Sir, at the very outset I should submit that I felt distressed when the Honourable Member said that this Bill is non-controversial and only administratively it is being improved or corrected. I should think that this Bill is of the utmost importance. A Bill which affects the interests of labour cannot be said to be an unimportant measure. And I may say how many times labour itself has contested the principal provisions of the Act.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Labour should produce better Bills.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Several questions as to the interpretation of the original Act have come before for consideration. How then is this Bill non-controversial? The Honourable Member in the same breath said that such questions have arisen before and gone to the High Courts.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: He is in labour.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: He himself has said that the Chief Court of Sind decided a case which, according to him, has necessitated his coming forward with this amendment. I do not agree with him in the interpretation he puts on that decision. He has set forth in the Notes on Clauses what that court has held. It has held that when there is any deduction or reduction in pay or any demotion it will be considered that there has been a deduction from their pay. I think my Honourable friend said that according to him the decision of the Chief Court was not sustainable by the decision itself. I may inform the Honourable Member that I had to do something with that case, in the sense of giving advice when the matter was going to court, and it was decided accordingly—as has been stated in the Notes—

"The Sind Chief Court held some time ago that the temporary reduction of an employee from one step in an incremental scale to another amounted to a deduction within the meaning of the Act. Doubts have also been expressed whether reductions, demotions etc., by way of disciplinary measures amounted to 'deductions'."

This is what the Chief Court held, that they are deductions, and therefore it looks as if the Honourable Member is attempting to override that decision.

[Mr Lalchand Navahar]

of the Chief Court I do not think the Legislature will allow that without very serious consideration. I am for circulation of the Bill, because it is a question of legal interpretation, and therefore it should be circulated not only to labour but to their representatives and their advisers and advocates, so that the right interpretation may be arrived at. It will lessen the work of the Honourable Member in Select Committee. He will get the opinions of some of the High Courts which override this decision of the Chief Court, if he wants that the law should be changed. We must have opinions to guide us in the Select Committee. It would be wise of the Honourable Member to accept the amendment that has been put in.

It is not only the question of demotion or reduction that has to be considered under this Bill—there is also the question of absence and also what will be the effect if a man is wrongly discharged or dismissed. Such cases have also recently come up before the tribunals and they have held in the case of absence, that if the absence is wilful or not right, then the deduction can be made. But in the case of discharge or dismissal, they have said that that can only be made by the authority which has the power, because many times the order of discharge was made by an authority to whom the power had been wrongly delegated. How can it therefore be said that all these questions are unimportant or non-controversial? On the contrary, I think that considering this Bill along with several other Bills which are coming before the House, this is a more important one than the others and I hope the Honourable Member will send this for circulation.

Another reason is this. No opportunity has been given to the representatives of labour or to labour itself to consider this Bill. This was introduced on the very first day we came here, and today it is sought to refer it to Select Committee. We have therefore got no opinions before us. We have got absolutely no opinion.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I am sorry to have included my Honourable friend in the Select Committee when he has no opinion.

Mr. Lalchand Navahar: This also will be one of the points I have raised. I am not going into the details of the clauses, but these are the more important things, and when the Honourable Member says that this is not a controversial Bill, I would leave the House to consider whether he is right. There are several other points which have to be considered before this Bill comes to the stage of going to the Select Committee. Mr. Joshi himself says he had not sufficient time to give his opinion on the Bill.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: We are here every day where is the time to study it?

Mr. Lalchand Navahar: Mr. Joshi is an expert in these matters and he has been working all along for labour and going into these questions for an age, and therefore his opinion that it should go for circulation should be accepted at once. He has experience and he has criticised some of the provisions, but I would also submit that this Bill should be circulated because there are certain things contained in it which must be decided once for all, if labour is to go on co-operating in a conciliatory manner otherwise they will be disturbed. Labour is very powerful nowadays and we have to move cautiously, and when you make a law and subject them to certain conditions, you must proceed cautiously and not hustle the proceedings of this Bill. These are important questions. How many decisions have there been on the word "wages"? The lawyers know it—we know it, we know how much difference there has been between the interpretations of different High Courts. The definition of "wages" is being changed. Therefore, now that a new definition with additions and alterations is being made, that also should be considered by those concerned and those whom it affects.

Then, Sir, you are also changing the time when they should get the payment. They have always been crying that the payment should be made on the first day or the second day after it falls due. They were getting it in certain conditions within seven days. Now seven days are going to be increased to ten days. There will be a cry over that too. That also should be considered.

Then there is this question of demotion. When it suits the employer, he gives a man a higher type of work and when the employer does not require that higher type of work, you want to bring him down again to the old lesser pay. Is that fair? If you have selected the man for the higher type of work, you must keep him there, whether you have got work for him or not. That is a question that you have got to consider.

I will not go into the details of the other provisions of the Bill which should, I think, go out for circulation. After circulation, we will sit together and then consider all the points of law as well as points of fact and come to a conclusion.

Mr. A. C. Inskip (United Provinces European) As the Honourable Member for Labour has said, the object of this amending Bill is to seek to clarify certain obscurities in the present Bill, particularly in regard to three items. It seeks to make it clear that wages have to be earned under the contract of employment, expressed or implied. It also seeks to make it clear that where there is an incremental scale, the increment may only be withheld as a disciplinary measure. It seeks further to lay down that a diminution of wages by reason of requirement to perform work involving a standard of skill or responsibility lower than that in the previous work, is not a deduction.

The Bill itself makes clear that 'the withholding of an increment is to be treated in several important respects as if it were a fine and will not be permitted except when the employee has committed an offence against discipline in accordance with an approved detailed list of offences hung up on the factory's notice board. The existing Payment of Wages Rules make the Chief Inspector of Factories the final arbiter of this list and in making this decision he will depend on the guidance he can get from the Act.'

Taking all these definite pointers together, then two facts emerge. Firstly, Government admits that the definition of wages—which is the most important and fundamental thing in the whole of this legislation—rests on the idea that there is always a contract of employment either express or implied. Wages mean the wages earned under the contract of employment.

Secondly, the legislation is intended to enforce payment of wages earned under the contract of employment without delay or deduction, but not to enforce anything beyond this. The clarification attempted by the present Bill apparently intends to make a clear distinction between payments that are wages and payments that are not.

If then what I have said correctly interpret Government's intentions then certain criticisms must be levelled against the new Bill.

Now, Sir, let me turn to the details of the proposed Bill, and in particular to Clause 2. In the new definition of "wages", the word "bonus" has been allowed to remain. It seems to be quite superfluous since the rest of the phrase "additional remuneration for increased output" is sufficiently clear and inclusive as it stands or in any case could easily be made so. The question of whether various kinds of bonus are or are not payable by employers as a matter of obligation has been one of the most fruitful sources of industrial disputes in recent years extending to an attempt to force the payment of annual bonuses at increased rates even when the payment of such bonus has clearly not been a term of the contract of employment and even when the rate of profits has not increased. In other words, such attempts have been directed towards the very object of trying to get *ex gratia* bonuses treated as a compulsory and unconditional part of earnings. Why then, in the process of clearing up the most important and most obscure definition in the present Act should this ill-fated word of many meanings be retained in the sense of a payment due to the worker under his contract of employment. It makes the meaning of the term "wages" depend on the exact meaning of the word "bonus", and it would be difficult to find a more unsuitable foundation on which to rest an Act, or one more certain to lead directly or indirectly to disputes. All this applies with the same force even to the wording as published in the Bill. However carefully the word "bonus" is qualified, the word itself is sure to provoke misinterpretation. But the draft has the further disadvantage that even a slight

[Mr. A. C. Inskip]

error in punctuation—such as the insertion of a comma after the word “bonus”—might make it much worse. It is noticeable also that in this clause a specific reference to the money being ‘earned under the terms of his contract of employment’ appears in the second line, after which there is a whole list of particular cases hanging in the air with no further reference to the contract of employment at all. In particular, the word “payable” in the sixth line might mean almost anything. If ‘payable under the terms of the contract of employment’ is meant, then there can be no objection to saying so and there is every objection to the matter being left in any doubt. As it stands, there is a probability of dispute about whether an amount is payable because it has been paid in the past or for any other such reason.

Then, Sir, the Amending Bill seeks to include Dearness Allowance in the definition of wages. Thus, I fear, will undoubtedly cause serious complications, particularly in concerns where a provident fund is in existence for the benefit of its employees. Unless many existing provident fund schemes are altered, the employee will now have to pay a percentage of allowances as well as of wages as his contribution, and the employer who has agreed to contribute a like amount to the fund will also be penalised.

Then, Sir, in regard to clause 4, para. 3, the expression “on an incremental basis” is extremely vague. Almost any employment where there is any prospect of financial improvement at all might be described as being on an incremental basis. The wording in the Statement of Objects and Reasons is not very precise, but that in the Bill itself is far vaguer still. The expression “for disciplinary reasons” also is not very clear. The most probable interpretation is open to criticism in principle. It seems from the wording that the intention is to make the withholding of an increment illegal except in cases of breach of discipline. If so, this amounts to forcing the employer to fulfil a most important part of the contract of employment on one side while leaving it open to the employee to fail to fulfil the corresponding obligation on the other side. The employee is not paid his wages solely in consideration of his preserving discipline. He is mainly paid for the use of his skill. This is the main reason why different wage rates and incremental rates exist at all, and this fact incidentally is recognised in section 4, para. 4 of the Bill. The main reason and justification for a scale of increments is to make the rate of pay match the value of work when the value increases with increasing skill resulting from experience. But although the value of the work usually increases with the lapse of time—and time scales exist on order to deal with this normal state of affairs—it does not always increase in this way. A man may be lazy, he may be unwilling to take increased responsibility, he may be suffering from disability or he may simply be below average, or the process at which he is working may be changed and he may be unable to respond to the changed conditions. None of these cases amounts to a clear breach of discipline. Is it right, then, to compel the employer, if he has a time-scale for the average cases, to raise the wage rates of less valuable workers unconditionally on the same scale? What would be the position if an employer wished to revise the scale of wages for a particular occupation? As long as the scale is unaltered, the individual employee is protected under the Bill from having his increment stopped or his wages reduced. Would the alteration of the scale itself in a downward direction be legal or would it be regarded as a wholesale breach of the provisions of this clause?

Then, Sir, turning to clause 4 para. 4 it will be seen that this clause clearly deals with the case where an employer requires an employee to accept a lower paid job, but it does not cover failure on the part of the employee to improve or maintain the standard of his work in line with the remuneration laid down in the wage scale relating to his job.

In regard to clause 4, para. 5, this clause stipulates that the provisions of section 8, paras. 1, 2 and 3 of the existing Act shall apply to the withholding of increments etc., which again apparently confirms that the employer would be compelled to pay those of his workmen who are on time rates without

reference to their individual skill or assiduity. Such one-sided protection seems calculated to put a premium on idleness and mediocrity and to hinder the employer in rewarding his employees according to their merits.

The points of criticism I have put forward represent the views of the Group to which I belong and I trust they will receive the attention of the Honourable Member in charge of the Bill and the Select Committee, for there would appear to be a tendency to think exclusively about protecting workmen from unscrupulous employers and to forget that if this protection is given unconditionally, it leaves the employer and the public unprotected against the slack and inefficient workman.

Sir, I support the original motion.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: Mr Deputy President, if it can help to curtail the debate, I should like to state at this stage that I am prepared to accept the amendment.

Prof. M. G. Ranga (Guntur (non-Muhammadian Rural) Sir, I am glad the Honourable Member in charge of the Bill has agreed to accept the motion for circulation. Therefore, I do not wish to say much at this stage on the merits of the Bill except that in my view it is worse than a pill of poison. To take a pill of poison, the patient has to be coaxed to open his mouth and swallow it, but this Bill is a sort of an injection which is given while the patient is asleep by a very dreadful process. The patient does not know that poison is being injected into him, nevertheless, it has its deadly effect.

Sir, there does not seem to be any particular hurry for a Bill like this. I do not know why the Honourable Member in charge has lent his ear to those reactionaries who press on him the need for a Bill like this, as if the Bill is not bad enough. My Honourable friend the spokesman for the European Group has got up with his attempt to make it even more reactionary and more troublesome and unacceptable to the workers. Has it been found in practice during these days of crisis that production has been materially affected anywhere because these amendments have not been made to the original Act? We have not had any report to that effect. It cannot even be pleaded that the workers, because they are going on working from year to year in these days of war and are becoming senior workmen, are becoming less and less efficient and that the employers are unable to demote them, reduce their wages and even cut down their earnings and in that way cut down their labour bill. That, too, has not been established. On the other hand, what is happening is that more and more workers are being employed and the workers who have been there before the beginning of the war have been found to become more and more skilled and yielding also bigger and bigger profits for the employers and also the Government, which reaps its benefit through the Excess Profits Tax. My Honourable friend the spokesman of the European Group was talking about the failure of worker's skill to rise in consonance with the rise of pay. I wish he would turn his attention to what is happening in the Government of India and to its employees and also to many of his own compatriots in this country who are employed in various plantations and other European Companies. Is he sure that as they become more and more senior in their service, their skill is also increasing? Is he sure that as they are being assured of their annual increments of Rs. 50 or Rs. 100, their efficiency is also increasing? In fact, it is the other way about. But is there any provision on the Statute-book of this Government which provides for a corresponding reduction in the salaries, emoluments and allowances that are being given to many of these Government officials and European officials in this country who are employed either by Government or by commercial concerns, so that they may be made to realise that they are becoming eligible to superannuation, whereas they are only made eligible today to higher and higher increments as years go by.

Sir, there are a number of provisions to which I take very strong objection but I speak with trepidation in regard to the details because the Honourable Member has not vouchsafed to us the views of the organised labour in this country. I am glad he has agreed to our suggestion that it should be sent

[Prof. N. G. Ranga.]
into circulation and I hope when the Bill comes back after circulation it may be possible for most of us who are laymen in regard to the trade union matters to form a judgment in regard to the merits of these different sections than is possible at present. Therefore, I support the motion for circulation.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: Sir, as I have said, I am prepared to accept the motion made by my friend Mr. Joshi. In that event, it is unnecessary for me to make any speech. All that I would like to say is this that I cannot agree that any strong case has been made out for circulation. As I said just now, I made myself very clear that the amendments which

4 P.M. I have put forth were administrative in the sense that they will remove the difficulties that exist in the administration of the law. I have not seen that any of the amendments which are contained in this Bill were, if I may say so, beyond the capacity and the intelligence and the knowledge and the information of Honourable Members of the Select Committee. I, Sir, was surprised to see that my Honourable friend Mr. Joshi did not do enough credit to himself. If I circulate the Bill, and I am asked to circulate the Bill in order to canvass the opinion of the working classes, I wonder whether who would be the advocate that would be employed by the working classes except Mr. Joshi himself or my Honourable friend Mr. Lakhband Navarai. It was in order to get the benefit of their representative character their knowledge and information that I have taken care to include them in the Select Committee. However, Sir, if they feel that they cannot repose confidence in their ability to deal with what I regard as non-controversial points, I am quite prepared to fall in line with them and accept the amendment.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhul Chandra Datta): The question is

"That the Bill be circulated for the purpose of eliciting public opinion thereon by the 28th February, 1945."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. J. D. Tyson (Secretary, Department of Education, Health and Lands): Sir, I am not moving my motion today.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhul Chandra Datta): The House stands adjourned till tomorrow.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday, the 17th November, 1944.

*That this Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council to accept the constitution of the Permanent Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Friday, 17th November, 1944

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber of the Council House at Eleven of the Clock, Mr President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) in the Chair.

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(a) ORAL ANSWERS

RECOGNIZED UNIONS ON NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

489. *Sardar Sant Singh: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state how many and which unions of employees are recognized on the North Western Railway?

(b) Do their office-bearers enjoy the privilege of free Railway passes? If so, what is the scale of privilege?

(c) How many such free passes were issued to the office-bearers of these unions

(i) during the financial year 1943-44, and

(ii) from 1st April 1944 to the 31st August, 1944?

(d) What was the maximum number of passes issued in favour of one individual during the above two periods in his capacity of an office-bearer of a recognized Union?

(e) Have any passes been given to any of the Union office-bearers for stay-in propaganda? If so, why? Did the Government apprehend a strike? If so, where and how was it averted?

(f) What was the number of special passes issued to each of the Unions referred to in (a) above, for the purpose of stay-in propaganda during the periods mentioned in (c) above, and are any reports of the work done by such free pass-holders sent to the Administration? If not, why not? If so, will the Honourable Member please give a brief account of the propaganda done?

(g) What was the monetary value of stay-in passes, and was their issue, in view of shortage of travelling accommodation, commensurate with the advantage gained? If so, how?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) The following four Unions are recognized by the North Western Railway Administration —

(1) The N W Railway Recognized Union

(2) The United Union of N W Railway Workers

(3) The National Union of Railwaymen of India and Burma

(4) The Association of Accountants, North Western Railway

(b) and (c) I lay on the table a statement giving the required information.

(d) Nineteen sets of passes

(e) and (f) The number of passes issued to office bearers of Unions for so called stay-in propaganda is shown in the statement already laid on the table. No immediate strike was apprehended but in view of the necessity for keeping railway employees informed of the correct facts and to counteract any agitation based on false rumours during the present emergency, Government considered it desirable to facilitate movement by Union officials for these purposes and to give them passes at the discretion of the Railway Administration. No formal reports of the work done by such persons have been received, nor are they considered necessary.

(g) The total monetary value of such passes is Rs 1,651. Government consider the grant of these passes was justified.

Statement showing the scale of free passes allowed over the home line to union officials on the North Western Railway and the number of such passes issued during the period 1st April 1943 to 31st March 1944 and 1st April 1944 to 31st August 1944

Name of Union	Total number of passes issued		Number of passes issued for the purpose of stay in propaganda		Scale of passes fixed in September, 1943
	From 1-4-43 to 31-3-44	From 1-4-44 to 31-8-44	From 1-4-43 to 31-3-44	From 1-4-44 to 31-8-44	
United Union of N. W. Railway Workers	49	9	20	4	(1) <i>To attend Union meetings</i> — Not more than four passes in a year and to not more than four union officials.
N. W. Railway Recognized Union	5	1	2	Nul	(2) <i>For Stay-in Propaganda</i> — Not more than one pass in a quarter or four passes in a year to one or two office bearers of a recognized union
National Union of Railwaymen of India & Burma	1	Nul	Nul	Nul	(3) <i>For visiting branch secretaries and divisional headquarters</i> — Not more than four passes in a year to the working President or working Secretary
Total	55	10	22	4	[Note — All the above passes are issued over home line only]

Prof. N. G. Ranga: For what classes of travel are these free Passes issued? Are they for First class or for Third class?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I am afraid I shall require notice of that question.

Mr. Lalchand Navabhai: May I know what are the qualifications required for recognising these Unions? Are there any conditions made with them when they are recognised?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: No, Sir. No conditions are made when they are recognised but if the Honourable Member wants a statement on the question I shall be glad if he will put a question down on the paper.

INADEQUATE NUMBER OF POSTMEN IN ALLAHABAD

***490. *Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi:** (a) Will the Secretary for Posts and An please state if it is not a fact that at Allahabad the average number of ordinary letters to be delivered before the present war started used to be under 15,000?

(b) Is it or is it not a fact that during the course of the war this number has almost doubled and similarly the number of registered articles, money orders and parcels has grown much in volume?

(c) Is it or is it not a fact that this increase is due among other things to the increase of the population also?

(d) Is it or is it not a fact that during the pre-war period the number of Postmen in Allahabad was 95 in the Head Office, and it remains the same till today?

(e) Is it or is it not a fact that excessive work is very badly pressing upon the Postmen and they have been making representations in that behalf?

†Answer to this question laid on the table the questioner being absent

(f) Is it or is it not a fact that on an average of a minimum of 10 square mile beat per Postman, the number of postmen required for Allahabad should be 113?

(g) Is it or is it not a fact that during the past three months there have been five deaths amongst Postmen mostly due to hard work and under nourishment? If not, what are the real facts?

(h) In view of the immense increase in work and the pressure on postmen, do Government propose to consider the advisability of increasing the number of Postmen to their proper strength and give them sufficient dearness allowance for their proper nourishment?

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: (a) The daily average number of ordinary letters (paid and unpaid including P and T Service letters) received for delivery in Allahabad before the war was 9,000

(b) The number has increased by 50 per cent. Information regarding the number of registered articles, M O's and parcels is available only from the year 1941-42 and indicates a similar increase

(c) The increase is attributable mainly to the war

(d) It is not a fact

(e) There have been representations from the postmen to the Postmaster-General complaining of excessive work

(f) It is not a fact

(g) No postman in Allahabad has died during the last three months. The second part of the question does not therefore arise

(h) As regards the first part of the question, the matter is within the competence of the Postmaster-General and is being examined by him. Representations regarding the grant of grain concessions as a supplement to dearness allowance are under consideration

PROVISION OF CHEAP GRAIN SHOPS FOR ALLAHABAD POSTMEN

†491. *Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi: (a) Will the Secretary for Posts and Air please state if it is not a fact that no cheap grain shops or other facilities have been provided in Allahabad or other big cities for the supply of foodgrains to the Postmen at Allahabad?

(b) Is it or is it not a fact that mostly the Postmen due to their long outdoor duties are not in a position to buy grain at those shops which open at prescribed time during day time only—the time when the Postmen are on duty and as such mostly suffer from want of foodgrains and other necessities of life?

(c) In view of these hardships do Government propose to consider the advisability of providing cheap grain shops near Post Offices from where Postmen and other lower grade staff of Post Offices may be able to purchase foodgrains and other necessities of life?

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: (a) and (b) The facts are not as stated

(c) In view of the reply to parts (a) and (b) this question does not actually arise, but I may inform the Honourable Member that a proposal to extend facilities for purchasing foodgrains at reasonable rates to the P and T staff in various places is under consideration

RESTORATION OF OLD SCALE OF PAY FOR POSTMEN

†492. *Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi: (a) Will the Secretary for Posts and Air please state if it is a fact that prior to 31st March, 1931, the scale of pay of Postmen was Rs 23—1—43, and after that due to the depression new scale of pay was introduced viz Rs 22—1 (in two years)—32, similarly the Packers who were given Rs 15—4s 8—20, previously were reduced to Rs 15—(Rs 1—5 in five years)—17, and the Sorting Postmen who used to get Rs 45—4—85 were given Rs 35—3—85?

(b) Is it or is it not a fact that the Unions of Postmen have been making representations to the authorities for this unjust treatment to the new entrants?

†Answer to this question laid on the table the questioner being absent

(c) Is it or is it not a fact that in some other Department, e.g., in Accountant General's Office the old scales of pay have been restored?

(d) In view of great hardship to Postal staff, have the Government considered the advisability of restoring the old scales of pay?

Mr. W. H. Shoober: (a) The old and revised scales of pay of these officials are given at pages 42, 44, 67, 78, 79 and 80 of the Manual of Appointments and Allowances of the Officers of the Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department (2nd Edition), a copy of which is placed in the Library of the House. The revised scales are generally applicable to those who entered service on or after 15th July, 1931. The statement that the new scales of pay were introduced due to the depression is not accurate.

(b) There has been no unjust treatment of the new entrants. It is, however, a fact that representations have been received praying for revision of the new scales of pay.

(c) It is not a fact.

(d) No.

ALMORA OUT-AGENCY

493. *Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state since when an Out-Agency has been started at Almora?

(b) Have any restrictions been imposed for the rebooking of consignments from the the Railway terminus of Haldwani or Kathgodam to the Almora Out-Agency?

(c) Is it necessary for the Station Masters of Haldwani or Kathgodam to obtain the sanction of the Traffic Manager in every case where rebooking of consignments to the Almora Out-Agency is desired by the consignees?

(d) Is it because of transport difficulties between the Railway stations of Haldwani and Kathgodam to the Almora Out-Agency that these restrictions for rebooking have been imposed?

(e) If booking to the Almora Out-Agency is thus restricted, how does the Department expect the Almora Out-Agency to be a paying one?

(f) If restrictions have been imposed, what is the means left for the consignees of Almora to get their goods from the Railway Stations of Haldwani or Kathgodam since the other old means have been suspended?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) The out-agency at Almora was reopened from the September 1944.

(b) (c) and (d) The O and T Railway Administration prohibit the rebooking of goods from any station or its system to any other station or out-agency except under the specific orders of the Traffic Manager. These orders apply as a matter of course to rebooking from Haldwani and Kathgodam to the Almora out-agency.

(e) and (f) Booking of goods from Haldwani and Kathgodam to the Almora out-agency, as a separate transaction is not restricted by the prohibition referred to above. Nor does the prohibition prevent direct booking from other stations on the O and T Railway to the Almora out-agency.

DETENTION OF P SURAJ PRASAD UPADHAYA OF NEPAL STATE

494. *Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: (a) Will the Secretary for External Affairs be pleased to state the reasons for which one P Suraj Prasad Upadhaya, Inspector of Education, Nepal State, was arrested recently in Benares, detained there and subsequently transferred to the Lucknow Central Prison?

(b) What were the charges against him?

Sir Olaf Caroe: (a) Surya Prasad Udaphaya was arrested and detained under the Restriction and Detention Ordinance, 1944, with a view to preventing him from acting in a manner prejudicial to a purpose specified in Sub-section (1) of Section 3 thereof. He was transferred from Benares to Lucknow for administrative reasons which it would not be in the public interest to disclose.

(b) Having regard to section 11 of the Ordinance I am not prepared to disclose the grounds for the order of detention.

Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: Have the Nepal Government been informed of his arrest? Was there any correspondence with the Nepal Government about his arrest?

Sir Olaf Caroe: I am not prepared to add to the answer I have already given.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Did the Government take action of its own initiative or had they any request sent to them by the Nepal Government in this behalf?

Sir Olaf Caroe: Sir, I am not prepared to disclose the grounds and the answer I have already given must cover all that my Honourable friend wants to know.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Sir, what does the Honourable Member mean by saying that he is not prepared to give the answer? Is it because it is not in the public interest to give the answer?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) He has said that already.

Sir Olaf Caroe: If my Honourable friend will look at the Ordinance, he will see that under section 11 even the court is not permitted to disclose the grounds; for the same reason, I am not prepared to disclose the grounds in this House.

Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: Is it the intention to extern this man to the Nepal Government?

Sir Olaf Caroe: That I am not prepared to answer.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Then why have you come here?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) Next question.

SHORTAGE OF COAL

†495. ***Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta:** (a) Will the Honourable the Supply Member be pleased to state when it was first suspected that there might be shortage of coal in India?

(b) When did the shortage of coal actually occur?

(c) What is the annual requirement for India?

(d) What is the actual present output?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: (a) and (b) I invite the attention of the Honourable Member to reply given by my Honourable colleague Dr Ambedkar to Mr K. C. Neogy's starred question No. 250 in the Legislative Assembly on 17th November, 1943.

(c) It is difficult to be precise but Government have at present a target of 25.6 millions in view.

(d) It is not in the public interest to disclose the figures at present.

COAL EXPORTS.

†496. ***Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta:** (a) Will the Honourable the Supply Member please state whether coal has been exported from India to any foreign country during the last five years?

(b) What was the actual amount of export during each of the years 1939, 1940, 1941, 1942, 1943 and 1944 and to which country?

(c) Was any coal exported from India to Italy during any of the above years? When was the coal last shipped to Italy?

(d) Was any coal exported from India to the Middle East during any of the above years? When was coal last exported to the Middle East?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: (a) Yes.

(b) and (c) As regards the actual export of coal during the years 1939—44 the attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the reply given in the Legislative Assembly on the 6th November, 1944, to part (a) of Mr Manu Subedar's starred question No. 120. It is not in the public interest to disclose the destinations to which coal was exported.

In 1948 owing to acute shortage of coal Government decided to stop all exports of coal to the Middle East. The requirements of Ceylon, however, continued to be met from India. Purely for reasons connected with the United

* Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner being absent.

Nations' shipping convenience, some of the coal earmarked for export to Ceylon was in practice shipped to Middle East while the Ceylon's requirements to that extent were met from South Africa. The actual destination of Indian coal shipped to Middle East is not controlled from India and it is possible that some of it was shipped onward to Italy.

(d) Yes. The answer to the second part of the question is covered by my reply to parts (b) and (c).

COAL EXPORT FOR CONDUCT OF WAR

1497. ***Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta**: Will the Honourable the Supply Member please state whether coal has been exported to any country for the conduct of the war?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: Yes, Sir
INADEQUATE LIGHTING IN TRAINS.

498. ***Mr. Manu Subedar**: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state if it is a fact that in spite of overcrowding and heavy receipts by Government, Railway passengers are compelled to go without adequate lighting in all classes?

(b) Is it a fact that no bulbs are provided in the lavatories of any class of Railways?

(c) Is it true that the passenger coaches in use have not been repaired that doors in some cases cannot be locked properly and windows do not hold but fall down and various other fittings in the carriage as well as in the lavatory are out of repair with the result that passengers do not get any water on the way?

(d) What is the reason for this state of affairs and when and in what manner do Government propose to put an end to it?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Owing to the extraordinary number of thefts of train lighting bulbs and the difficulties to be overcome in obtaining adequate supplies to meet normal maintenance and the abnormal demands resulting from these thefts it is impossible to provide lighting in passenger carriages to the full peace-time standard.

(b) No.

(c) No. It is, however, true that Railways are finding it extremely difficult to maintain stock in a satisfactory state of repair. Thefts of fittings continually occur and it has been necessary to discontinue the fittings of some items as it is impossible to obtain supplies adequate to enable these losses to be made good. Every effort is made to ensure that lavatory fittings are kept in a proper state of repair.

(d) The primary reason for this state of affairs appears to be the ready sale of fittings stolen from coaching stock in the "black market". Only with the assistance of the public as a whole can the steps which Government are taking to overcome this reprehensible traffic bring about an improvement in the position. It is also due to the difficulty of taking off coaches for repair without further inconvenience to the public and to the diversion of coaching stock to ambulance trains.

Mr. Manu Subedar: With regard to part (b) of the question, the Honourable Member says that it is not true that bulbs are not provided in the lavatories of the Railways. Will he look into this matter because from my own experience of the last six months, when I did about 20 journeys, there never was a bulb in the lavatories?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Yes, Sir. I have said that that is very often the case, but it is not invariable.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I inquire if a compartment is provided with only one light, it is not liable to theft as much as it would be if the compartment is provided with more than one light? Theft can take place even of one bulb that you put.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Then the Honourable Member will be in the dark.

†Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner being absent

Mr. Manu Subedar: When do the Government expect further supplies? When did they receive the last supply of bulbs in this country on railway account and when are they expecting further bulbs so as to prevent theft and inconvenience to the public?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I have stated several times on the floor of the House that we have placed very large orders abroad and we have also placed orders in this country. Supplies are arriving continually but unfortunately they are not fast enough to catch up with the thefts and the breakages. It may interest the House to know that we have lost 13 000 train lighting bulbs from Howrah in a period of 15 months, which shows the scale of thefts.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Is it a fact that the bulbs are provided in the lavatories of the military trains and they are not provided in the trains in which the civil population travels?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I shall require notice of that, but I expect the conditions are the same.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Is it not safer to be in the dark in the main compartment than in the lavatory?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The Honourable Member can take his choice.

WAGON PRODUCTION

499. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state the total number of wagons produced in India in each of the years from 1939-40 onwards?

(b) Are the wagon producing companies supplied with steel? If so, are Government satisfied that they use all the steel supplied in this manner on the production of wagons on order by the Government?

(c) What was the price per wagon paid in each of these years for the standard type as compared with the pre-war price?

(d) How many wagons were sent out of this country both broad gauge and metre gauge for war uses abroad and how many locomotives were so sent?

(e) Has any of this rolling stock returned?

(f) Is it likely to be serviceable when it returns?

(g) What steps have Government generally taken to improve the bottle-neck of transport in India which has upset trade and industry generally and which has rendered more difficult the food problem?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a)—

Year	Number of wagons manufactured
1939-40	3,234
1940-41	1,749
1941-42	347
1942-43	428
1943-44	2,446
1944-45 (up to 31st October 1944)	3,066

(b) The reply to both parts is 'yes', and I should mention, in regard to the first part, that supplies are against demands prepared with due regard to the types of wagons to be manufactured.

(c) I lay a statement on the table containing the required information.

(d) The following stock was sent overseas—

B G Wagons	1 418
M. G Wagons	7,858
M G Locos	206

(e) Yes. 42 M G Locos and 885 M G wagons have been returned and more are being returned.

(f) Yes, after thorough repair.

(g) Government's efforts in this respect have from time to time been made public through press communiques and by broadcast talks. They include—

(i) Unemitting pressure at all levels for the supply of additional locomotives and wagons from overseas and for the fabrication of a maximum number of locomotives and wagons in India;

(ii) Concentrated efforts to improve the standard of operation and reduce the percentage of stock out of service for repair;

(iii) The establishment of a Rail Priority Organisation which not only ensures that essential commodities are moved in priority but also prevents cross movements wasteful of transport,

(iv) Control of coastal shipping and country-craft, and

(v) Controlled distribution of Lense-Lend vehicles

Statement

The price paid for a few representative type of general service wagons during 1938-39 onwards are given below—

Type of Wagon		1938-39	1939-40	1940-41	1941-42	1942-43 & Sup- plementary
		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs *
<i>Broad Gauge</i>						
Covered (Military)	'CMR'	3,700	5,700	6,200	..	9,000
Covered	'CR'	4,900	5,300	5,600	6,900	8,000
Open	'O'	4,400	.	5,100	6,100	7,000
<i>Metre Gauge.</i>						
Covered	'MC'	3,900	.	.	4,700	5,500
Covered (Jute)	'MGJ'	.	..	4,200	.	5,800

* These figures are approximate only and are subject to revision to take account of adjustments on account of the price of wheels and axles and rates paid for material and labour

Mr. Manu Subedar: Will my Honourable friend inform this House why there was a precipitate fall in the production of wagons in this country during the years 1940-41, 1941-42 and 1942-43?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Yes, Sir. The Honourable Member may have observed the course of war. In 1941, about the time the Japanese came into the war, the Germans were advancing in the Middle East. A critical condition arose which necessitated diversion of as much manufacturing capacity as possible to munitions. That took place in the years 1940-41 and in consequence the manufacture of wagons was held up. As soon as the Japanese menace became apparent, fresh orders for wagons were placed and we are now beginning to get the fruit of those orders which were placed in 1942.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Does my Honourable friend convey, Sir, that it was necessary in 1940-41, 1941-42 and 1942-43 to divert the production capacity for military purposes but that it has not become so necessary since and that now this productive capacity is used for wagon manufacture?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: That is so.

CORRUPTION IN CONNECTION WITH BERTH RESERVATIONS

500. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state if it is a fact that grave scandals have been discovered in the booking of berths and that at Delhi Junction and various other leading stations there is a regular tariff for berth reservation even when such reservation is made several days ahead and *bona fide* passengers who do not accommodate themselves to such tariffs are harassed?

(b) What steps have Government taken to eliminate this form of corruption?

(c) Has the special machinery instituted by Government been effective?

(d) How many prosecutions and convictions have taken place and, generally, are Government aware that the position is worse than it ever was before?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) I have received a number of general complaints but unfortunately they frequently come from persons who,

have themselves been guilty of offering bribes to the railway staff instead of reporting the matter immediately to the superior authorities

(b) Railway Administrations have been asked to give wide publicity, both in the Press and by exhibition of notices at stations, to the procedure in force in connection with reservation of seats and berths, so that the public may not be in any doubt in the matter. They have also been instructed to make frequent and thorough checks on reservation offices and on trains and the reports from railways indicate that they are following the instructions referred to above. The Special staff engaged in detecting corrupt practices on Railways have also given attention to this matter of reservations. Since, however, corruption involves the giving as well as the taking of bribes, the responsibility for eliminating it is shared equally between the public and the Government. Government have made repeated appeals to the public to come forward and report specific cases and would especially welcome support in this matter from Honourable Members.

(c) I have hopes that the special machinery will prove to be effective as its activities are extended but this must depend upon the will of the public to co-operate.

(d) According to the information readily available, which is in regard to the activities of the Special staff only, three persons have been prosecuted of whom one has been convicted, while the cases of three others are under investigation. As regards the latter portion, Government do not consider that the position is as stated. I will, however, see what further steps can be taken to increase prosecutions of both parties to such transactions.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Sir, I am glad my Honourable friend assures this House that he will look further into the matter, but may I know why he has not adopted the same method as the Industries and Civil Supplies Department of sending round a bogus customer or a plain-clothes man to reserve and why he has not caught red-handed the members of the railway staff who are doing it systematically and regularly and every day?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: We do catch some and a special organisation does work on the lines to which the Honourable Member referred, but if the Honourable Member will think the matter out it is much more easy to deal with the question of corruption in the booking of wagons than in the booking of berths.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Have you set traps for the staff in order to catch them in the process with your own men? I am sure officials of Government in other Departments will co-operate with you and do this service.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I hope to set some traps both for the railway staff and those who give bribes.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: What is the composition of the special staff and what are the methods adopted by them?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: That, Sir, should be addressed to the War Department.

CORRUPTION IN CONNECTION WITH WAGON PRIORITY

501. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Has the attention of the Honourable Member for War Transport been drawn to serious scandals in connection with wagon priority throughout the country?

(b) Is it a fact that officials granting priority have been given instructions to favour certain parties or are they given discretion which they use?

(c) Is it a fact that many *bona fide* traders are compelled to make heavy payments in order to move their goods?

(d) What is Government's machinery for receiving the necessary information as to what is going on?

(e) What steps are Government taking to eliminate this racket?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) No. The Priority Organisation of the War Transport Department has been singularly free from accusations of misuse of their powers.

(b) The reply to the first part of this question is in the negative. Priority officers have powers of discretion under rule 85-A of the Defence of India Rules. They do not use this discretion to favour any party but solely in the interest of economy of transport.

(c) No.

(d) If there were any serious complaints against the Regional Controllers of Priorities, it would be expected that the public would not fail to register complaints.

(e) Does not arise.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Are Government aware that there are rumours floating round in the markets that the price of a wagon when you want it is Rs. 1,000?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: If I may say so, that is just typical of the evidence we get—"There are rumours floating round." Also I would point out to the Honourable Member that this question is directed to the Priority organisation and not to the booking of wagons which is quite a different matter.

Mr. Manu Subedar: It is about the booking of wagons that I asked the question. How many cases of illicit booking have you caught? How many men on your staff have you punished?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: It does not properly arise out of the question, and it should be addressed to the Railway Member I think! But actually the latest position I have got is that there have been 58 prosecutions for illicit booking of which 14 have been acquitted, 30 convicted, eight removed from service by Departmental action, seven punished in other ways by Departmental action, and 29 are still in court or under investigation. Unfortunately, out of all these cases only one concerns a non-railwayman.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Has the Honourable Member been able to trace a connection between the booking clerks and some of the higher staff of the Railways with regard to these wagon allotments?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: No, Sir. I would like to know if the Honourable Member has got any particular case in mind.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: May I ask the Honourable Member with regard to answers to part (a) and (b)—which is rather axiomatic—whether the officers controlling these priorities are people who have had no previous commercial affiliations like the Honourable Member for instance?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I think I am correct in saying that that is the case. The Priority Officers are all railway officers, mostly from the commercial departments.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: They are not people drawn from commercial service?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: No, Sir. I cannot think of any.

INDIAN RADIO AND CABLE COMMUNICATIONS COMPANY CONTRACT

502. ***Mr. H. M. Abdullah:** Will the Secretary for Posts and Air please state

(a) when the present contract between the Government of India and the Indian Radio and Cable Communications Company, Limited is going to expire,

(b) do Government propose to take over the Company at the termination of the present agreement,

(c) what is the total number of Directors on the Board of the Company, how many of them represent the Government

(d) what control the Government have over the policy, direction and management of the Company now that it has come under the Ordinance of the 'Essential Services', and

(e) what is the percentage of Muslim officers in the Engineering and Traffic Departments of the Company?

Mr. W. H. Shoober: (a) and (b) Arrangements between Government and the Indian Radio and Cable Communications Co. Ltd., are contained in an agreement and a license issued under the Indian Telegraph Act, which are independent. There is no definite term but Government has now the right

to give twelve months notice of termination. No such notice has yet been given and the future arrangements have not yet been decided.

(c) Twelve, of which three are appointed by the Government of India.

(d) The Essential Services (Maintenance) Ordinance has not affected the general relations between Government and the Company as regards policy and higher direction, which continues to be governed by the agreement mentioned above. This is a lengthy and detailed document. The principal provisions of a general nature are

(i) the Company shall remain essentially Indian in character,

(ii) the company shall hold no monopoly

(iii) the changes shall not be varied without the concurrence of the Government,

(iv) the Company shall pay a royalty to Government

(e) Government have no information

AMENDMENT OF SECTION 6 OF ACT 35 OF 1938

503. *Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: Will the Honourable Member for War Transport please state

(a) the need for the amendment of section 6 of Act 35 of 1938,

(b) whether the amendment has been suggested by Provincial Governments on the advice of the transport authorities in the Provinces,

(c) whether the Government of India were furnished with evidence that the Act, as it is, hinders war effort,

(d) whether in making the amendment the Government have made any provision to safeguard the interests of the existing and established fleet operators, and

(e) whether the Government have any information whether the Provincial Governments have taken steps to utilize the powers envisaged by the amendment?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) There is no Act of 1938 and I can only assume that the Honourable Member refers to Act 35 of 1939. On that assumption the Honourable Member does not specify which particular amendment of that Act he refers to, but I am replying on the assumption that he refers to the amendments made in Section 6 of Act 35 of 1939 by Section 3 of Ordinance XXVI of 1944. The basic need for the amendments was the need to adapt a statute designed to meet peace time conditions to war time conditions. A statement is placed upon the table explaining the reasons for the amendments.

(b) and (c) The amendment was not initiated by Provincial Governments, but they were consulted by the Government of India before the Ordinance took its final shape. The need for the amendment was apparent to the Government of India from the close contact of the Government of India and its touring officers with Provincial Motor Transport Controllers.

(d) The amendments are of an enabling nature only and do not affect the statutory right of appeal.

(e) Only the Madras, Bengal and C. P. & Berar Governments and the Coorg Administration have so far taken advantage of the amendment and that to a limited extent.

Statement giving the reasons for amending clause (6) of Section 6 of Act 35 of 1939

(1) The Motor Vehicles Act 1939 provides that the Transport Authorities shall be composite bodies of Officials and non-officials nominated by the Provincial Governments. It further lays down the considerations to which the Authorities shall have regard. Provincial Governments have now appointed Motor Transport Controllers who virtually regulate all uses of Civil Motor Transport. The Control of the Central Government is being exercised by consent without the invocation of special powers both in relation to pre-existing Civil Vehicles and to those now becoming available under lease-lend or by arrangement with the Canadian Government. In the case of Controlled vehicles Central Government is responsible for preventing abuse of the vehicles and profiteering. Though it is not considered necessary to take power of direction and control in any formal manner it is inappropriate that control should in all cases continue to be exercised through composite official and non-official transport authorities vested with certain statutory discretion and that it should

continue to be necessary in all cases to summon non-official members to attend meetings at which their presence is perfunctory.

(2) While the existing modifications of the Motor Vehicles Act 1930 introduced vide Section 6 of Defence of India Act added by clause (c) of Section 3 of Ordinance No XXXIII of 1942 (promulgated on the 22nd May, 1942) empowered Transport Authorities to cancel or to suspend a permit granted by them, the Motor Vehicles Act still requires that a permit other than a temporary permit shall be issued or renewed for a period of not less than three years. The intention was to empower Transport Authorities to issue regular permits or to renew permits for any specified period. The new amendment is designed to remove this omission.

(3) Under the Motor Vehicles Act a permit is not valid beyond the jurisdiction of the Authority which granted or renewed it unless countersigned by the Transport Authority of the other area concerned. The existing modification of the Motor Vehicles Act empowers the Transport Authorities to cancel or suspend a permit granted by it, but make no provision for countersignature. The fresh amendment confers those powers in respect of counter-signature. Further, it simplifies the procedure by providing that representations need not be heard.

(4) Controlled vehicles have been released in considerable numbers and it is expected to release them henceforward in greater numbers for general passenger and goods traffic. The Central Government is in a position to advise Provincial Motor Transport Controllers as to suitable maximum and minimum rates for such traffic. The procedure laid down in Section 43 of the Motor Vehicles Act in fixing freights and fares is unduly cumbersome under war conditions. Besides, it is doubtful whether the Provincial Government or the substitute authority created by it has power to fix freights and fares under section 43 with the single object of preventing profiteering. It has, therefore, been provided that the Provincial Government or the substitute authorities need not follow the procedure specified in Section 43.

(5) Under sub-clause 2 of section 35 of the Motor Vehicles Act, six months is the shortest period of validity of a certificate of fitness. The majority of the controlled vehicles are released on the condition that they should be fitted with Producer Gas Plants. In order to avoid undue wear and tear of their engines it is imperative that the Producer Gas Plant should be maintained in efficient running order. This can best be achieved by issuing certificates of fitness for periods shorter than six months. It is not proposed, however, to limit this provision only to vehicles fitted with gas plants, but to extend the power of more frequent inspection to cover all new controlled vehicles.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: May I ask the Honourable Member whether as a result of this amendment new corporations are being floated by railway companies in collaboration with local companies who are big and influential, and the existing operators are being elbowed out?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: No Sir, I do not think that has anything to do with the amendments.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: Will the Honourable Member give an assurance that he will have the point in mind and make inquiries?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Yes, Sir, I have the question very much in mind. It has been raised already on the floor of the House.

CLOSING OF MUSLIM TUCK SHOPS AT WALTON TRAINING SCHOOL.

504. *Mr. H. M. Abdullah: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state if it is a fact that two separate buildings were constructed by the North Western Railway to be used as tuck shops at the Walton Training School, Lahore Cantonment for Hindus and Muslims separately?

(b) Is it a fact that these were running independently since 1929 by a Hindu and a Muslim contractor separately?

(c) Is it a fact that since 1942 due to an increase in the number of Muslim students the Muslim tuck shop was ordered to be closed by the Superintendent and the vending contract was given to a Hindu for catering Hindu and Muslim communities both?

(d) What were the circumstances which led the said Superintendent to make these arrangements?

(e) Have Government seen the Muslim representation in this connection which appeared in the Railway supplement of the *Eastern Times*, Lahore, of the 3rd April and 8th July, 1944? Has any action been taken in this connection? If not, why not?

(f) Do Government propose now to consider the desirability of providing an independent Muslim tuck shop immediately? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) The reply is in the affirmative.

(b) Yes, except that during the period from July 1938 to September 1940 both the shops were run by a Muslim contractor

(c) Government understand that the license for both shops was given to a Hindu contractor.

(d) Government understand that a Muslim contractor to whom an offer was made in response to his application did not accept the license

(e) The reply to the first part is in the affirmative, though the dates given by the Honourable Member do not appear to be correct. As regards the latter part of the question, no action was considered necessary

(f) Government do not propose to interfere in the matter which is solely for the Railway Administration to decide

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: With reference to part (d), if one Muslim contractor did not accept the conditions why was no attempt made to get another?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: This hitherto has not been a communal question. There have been both Hindu and Muslim contractors, but I will certainly look into it if there is any demand for this

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: It is certainly a communal question because it is about Hindu and Muslim contractors. My question is, if one Muslim contractor refused to accept the conditions imposed, why was no attempt made to get another Muslim contractor who would accept them?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I observe that it has now become a communal question, but in the past when the Muslim contractor held it alone it was not a communal question

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: May I know if any other Muslim contractors came forward and asked for this?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I have really no more information than I have given to the House

SUPERINTENDENT, WALTON TRAINING SCHOOL.

505. *Mr. H. M. Abdullah: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state if it is a fact that since the inception of the Walton Training School the post of the Superintendent has all along been held by non-Muslims?

(b) If the reply to (a) be in the affirmative, why could not a Muslim be posted as Superintendent and does he propose to do so now?

(c) Is it a fact that a certain Superintendent held this post from 1939 to July, 1944?

(d) Is it also a fact that the Muslim staff and students had been oppressed and harassed during his exceptionally long tenure?

(e) Is it a fact that the grievances of the Muslim staff and students have been brought to light through the columns of the *Eastern Times*, Lahore, of the 15th June, 1944?

(f) Do the Government propose to investigate the allegations contained in (a) and (e) and take necessary steps in redressing their grievances?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Yes

(b) The posting of a Superintendent is not made on a communal basis

(c) The post was held by one individual from 8th June 1939 to 15th September 1939, and again from 13th February 1940, to 31st July 1944

(d) No

(e) and (f) Criticism of the North Western Railway Administration has appeared from time to time in the newspaper mentioned. No representation has, however, been received from the persons concerned, and Government therefore do not consider an investigation called for

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: With regard to part (e), these things were published in the *Eastern Times*. Were these brought to the notice of the Honourable Member?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Yes, when I received the question, but it is not one of those papers which I ordinarily peruse

CANDIDATES FOR 'P 3' COURSE IN WALTON TRAINING SCHOOL

506. *Mr. H. M. Abdullah: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state the total number of candidates (subordinates) by communities, who appeared for P-3 course in the Walton Training School in the years 1942 and 1944?

(b) Is it a fact that P-3 course is a most important course prescribed for commercial and transportation subordinates of the North Western Railway for promotion to posts in higher grades?

(c) Will the Government please ask the General Manager, North Western Railway, Lahore to issue instructions to the Divisional Superintendents to see that while making recommendations for the course sufficient Muslims are recommended, at least 60 per cent?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) I lay on the table a statement giving the required information

(b) Yes

(c) Suitable candidates are selected for training in the 'P 3' Course irrespective of communal considerations and Government do not consider that special instructions are called for

Statement showing the number of candidates by communities who appeared for the 'P 3' Course in the years 1942 and 1944

Year	Muslims	Hindus	Other Minority Communities	Anglo-Indians and Domestic Europeans	Total
1942	6	13	4	7	30
1944	3	4	3	2	12

Dr Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: What is this 'P-3' course?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The Honourable Member who asked the original question would perhaps instruct my Honourable friend fully, but it is actually a course for senior station masters and traffic inspectors

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: I suppose neither the Honourable Member who asked the question nor the Honourable Member who replied knew what it meant

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The Honourable Member who replied knew it but I cannot answer for the questioner

INSTRUCTORS IN WALTON TRAINING SCHOOL

507. *Mr. H. M. Abdullah: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state the total number of Instructors in the Walton Training School by communities?

(b) Is it a fact that there is inadequate representation of Muslims in the instructional staff of this institution?

(c) If the reply to (b) above is in the affirmative, what are the circumstances under which this was allowed and how do they propose to set right the matter?

(d) Do the Government propose to issue clear instructions to the effect that 60 per cent of the posts of Instructors be filled by the Muslim staff? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) The total number of Instructors is 36 of whom 20 are Hindus, ten Muslims, three Anglo-Indians and three Sikhs

(b), (c) and (d) The posting of Instructors is not done on a communal basis. Their appointment is made from an approved list of qualified staff, which is prepared in order of merit based on the number of marks obtained in the qualifying examination for Instructors

SUPERIOR STAFF (RATIONING) IN DELHI DIVISION, NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

508. *Mr. H. M. Abdullah: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state the total number of superior staff appointed or promoted to work in various offices or shops in connection with Rationing in the Delhi Division of the North Western Railway?

† Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner having exhausted his quota

(b) What is then number community-wise, in each grade and the percentage of Muslims to the total number of posts?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) and (b) The total number of subordinate staff is 75 of whom 19 are Muslims, 49 Hindus and seven Sikhs, the percentage of Muslims to the total number being 25.3

HEAD CLERKS AND SUB-HEADS IN DIVISIONAL OFFICE, DELHI

†509. ***Mr. H. M. Abdullah:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state the total number of Head Clerks and Sub-Heads in the Divisional Office, Delhi and the number of Muslim Head Clerks and Sub-Heads and their percentage to the total number of posts?

(b) Is it a fact that there is not even a single Muslim working as Head Clerk in that office? If so, why?

(c) Do Government propose to issue orders to give adequate representation to Muslims in this category of staff in the Divisional Office, Delhi? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) The total number of Head Clerks is seven, all of whom are non-Muslims, and out of a total number of 25 Sub-Heads four are Muslims. The proportion of Muslims in the Sub-Heads' grade is 16 per cent.

(b) The reply to the first part is in the affirmative. As regards the latter part, postings of staff are not made on a communal basis.

(c) Does not arise.

DIVISIONAL AND ASSISTANT OFFICERS IN DELHI DIVISION, NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

†510. ***Mr. H. M. Abdullah:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state the total number of Divisional and Assistant officers in the Delhi Division of the North Western Railway?

(b) What is the total number of Muslims in each Department?

(c) What steps do the Government propose to take for increasing Muslim representation amongst the officers of that Division?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) The required information is as follows—

Divisional Officers—11

Assistant Officers—19

(b) There are two Muslim Divisional Officers, one in the Engineering and the other in the Accounts Department, and one Assistant Muslim Officer in the Rationing Department.

(c) The posting of officers to Divisions is not done on a communal basis.

PROMOTION OF NON-MUSLIMS AS POWER CONTROLLER IN RAWALPINDI

†511. ***Mr. H. M. Abdullah:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for War Transport please state if it is a fact that the three persons promoted to the job of Power Controller in Rawalpindi are non-Muslims?

(b) Is he aware that the claims of efficient Muslims were ignored while holding this selection?

(c) What steps do the Government propose to make up the past deficiency and for securing adequate representation of Muslims in such selections in future?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Yes.

(b) The reply is in the negative.

(c) Promotions are not made on a communal basis and the representation of Muslims must depend very largely on their number in the ranks from which selection is made.

†Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner having exhausted his quota.

RECRUITMENT TO FOOD SUPPLY DEPARTMENT, BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY

†512. *Maulvi Syed Murtuza Sahib Bahadur: (a) Is the Honourable Member for Railways aware of the fact that all the posts in the newly created Food Supply Department of the Bengal and Assam Railway were not considered as new posts for the sake of direct recruitment to avoid to fulfil 45 per cent quota of Muslims in the said Department?

(b) If the reply to (a) is in the affirmative, will he be pleased to place before the House the rules which justify the action of the General Manager in not treating the said posts as new ones for direct recruitment?

(c) Is it a fact that four Senior Food Inspectors and about ten clerks were newly recruited in the said Department?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) No

(b) It is desirable to have in the grain shop organization on railways subordinates who are permanent servants of the Railway. Direct appointment to such posts is, therefore, limited. Such action is not prohibited by the rules.

(c) Government have no detailed information.

PERSONNEL OF FOOD SUPPLY DEPARTMENT, BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY

†513. *Maulvi Syed Murtuza Sahib Bahadur: Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to give the following information about the personnel (subordinates and officers) of the Food Supply Department of the Bengal and Assam Railway, separately, for the period 1942-43 and 1943-44 —

- (i) number of persons appointed,
- (ii) academic and departmental qualifications of those persons,
- (iii) substantive posts held originally in the Food Supply Department, and
- (iv) substantive posts held in other Departments before transfer to the Food Supply Department?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: With your permission, Sir, I will reply to Questions Nos 513 and 514 together.

The information is not readily available and I regret I cannot undertake to collect it under the present conditions.

PREPONDERANCE OF NON-MUSLIMS IN FOOD SUPPLY DEPARTMENT, BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY

†514. *Maulvi Syed Murtuza Sahib Bahadur: (a) Is the Honourable Member for Railways aware of the fact that a considerable number of non-Muslims in the Food Supply Department of the Bengal and Assam Railway were raised to the position of officers, Inspectors and Senior Grade clerks through accelerated promotions within two years?

(b) If the reply to (a) is in the negative, will he be pleased to give the history by stages of the advancement of the non-Muslims in the categories referred to in (a) for the period from 1942 to September, 1944, i.e., those non-Muslims who were in Food Department on the 30th September, 1944?

MUSLIM OFFICERS SHUNTED OUT FROM FOOD SUPPLY DEPARTMENT, BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY

†515. *Maulvi Syed Murtuza Sahib Bahadur: (a) Is the Honourable Member for Railways aware of the fact that the Muslim Officers and Inspectors who were in the Food Supply Department of the Bengal and Assam Railway since its inception were shunted out without assigning any reasons to make room for non-Muslims?

(b) If the reply to (a) is in the negative, what is the number of the Muslim Inspectors who were taken in the Department since its very inception and were sent back to their parent Departments and was any enquiry instituted in their alleged cases before they were returned?

(c) Is it a fact that Senior Muslim Food Supply Inspectors are still kept in the Relieving List and Junior non-Muslim Food Supply Inspectors promoted

†Answer to this question laid on the table the questioner being absent.

†For answer to this question, see answer to question No 513.

from lower grade have been made Headquarters Inspectors to raise them to the post in the Lower Gazetted Service?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) The reply is in the negative.

(b) No Muslim Inspector was taken at the very inception of the Food Supply organization, but three Muslims were subsequently posted as Inspectors, one of them being promoted later to officiate in the Lower Gazetted Service. The officiating officer and one Muslim Inspector were returned to their parent Departments for disciplinary reasons after proper investigation of the charges against them.

(c) There is one Muslim Relieving Food Supply Inspector who is senior to the non-Muslim Headquarters Inspector. The appointment of staff to the various posts is made in the interests of the service and promotion to the Lower Gazetted Service is based on selection.

RECRUITMENT OF CANTEN INSPECTORS, FOOD SUPPLY DEPARTMENT, BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY

516. *Maulvi Syed Murtuza Sahib Bahadur: (a) Is the Honourable Member for Railways aware of the fact that the post of Canteen Inspectors of the Food Supply Department of the Bengal and Assam Railway were filled by superseding the claims of senior Muslim Food Supply Inspectors?

(b) Is it a fact that no Selection Board was held at the time of filling the posts of the Canteen Inspectors?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) and (b) The post in question was filled by selection by a Selection Board and the claims of Muslim staff were duly considered.

MATES AND HEAD MATES ON BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY

517. *Mr. Umar Aly Shah: Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state in a comparative form the number of Muslim and non-Muslim Mats and Head Mats on the Open Line of the Bengal and Assam Railway during the period from January, 1940 to September, 1944?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: With your permission, Sir, I will reply to Questions Nos 517 and 518 together.

Government have no information and I regret I cannot undertake to collect it under the present conditions.

EXAMINATION OF HEAD MATES FOR PROMOTION AS SUB-PERMANENT WAY INSPECTORS, BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY

518. *Mr. Umar Aly Shah: (a) Is the Honourable Member for Railways aware of the fact that in the year 1943-44 Head Mats were examined for the posts of Sub-Permanent Inspectors by the Bengal and Assam Railway?

(b) If the reply to (a) is in the affirmative, what are the number of the Muslims and Non-Muslims who appeared at the said examination and the number of those who passed the examination?

PREPONDERANCE OF NON-MUSLIM SUB-PERMANENT WAY INSPECTORS ON BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY

519. *Mr. Umar Aly Shah: (a) Is the Honourable Member for Railways aware of the fact that during the year 1942 and 1943 the Bengal and Assam Railway filled all the vacancies of Sub-Permanent Way Inspectors by non-Muslim Head Mats in contravention of the rules for the observance of communal quota in such cases?

(b) If the reply to (a) is in the affirmative, was the deficiency of Muslim quota made good in any subsequent year?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) The reply is in the affirmative except that no rules were contravened as reservation of vacancies on a communal basis applies to subordinate ranks on the Railway as a whole and not to individual grades.

*Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner being absent.

†For answer to this question, see answer to question No 517.

(b) It has not been possible lately to make up deficiencies on the Bengal and Assam Railway as a whole, owing to the difficulty of obtaining qualified Muslims

HEAD MATES ABSORBED AS SUB-PERMANENT WAY INSPECTORS ON BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY

†520. *Mr. Umar Ali Shah: (a) Is the Honourable Member for Railways aware of the fact that the Railway Board's instructions about the absorption of Head Mates in the posts of Sub-Permanent Way Inspectors which were issued to the Bengal and Assam Railway on the starred question No 392 in the Central Legislative Assembly, dated the 29th March, 1943 had not been carried out up to September, 1944?

(b) If the reply to (a) is in the negative, what are the number of Muslim and non-Muslim Head Mates absorbed in the vacancies of the Sub-Permanent Inspectors during the period from January, 1942, to September, 1944?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) No such instructions were issued on the Starred Question referred to but in connection with Starred Question No 391. The instructions have not been ignored though, as I have pointed out in my reply to part (a) of Question No 519, reservation of vacancies on a communal basis applies to subordinate ranks on the Railway as a whole and not to individual grades.

(b) The number of Muslim and non-Muslim Head Mates absorbed as Sub-Permanent Way Inspectors is two and 21 respectively.

CLERKS IN DISTRICT ESTABLISHMENT OFFICES OF ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT OF BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY

†521. *Mr. Umar Ali Shah: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state the number of clerks, community-wise, in the District Establishment Offices of the Engineering Department of the Bengal and Assam Railway during the period from January, 1942, to September, 1944?

(b) Is it a fact that the General Manager's circular No 185E/18-Part VI, dated the 5th July, 1941 about the recruitment of clerks in Establishment offices has never been observed?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) and (b) Government have no information and I regret I cannot undertake to collect it under the present conditions. A copy of the question will, however, be forwarded to the Railway Administration for such action as may be deemed necessary.

CERTAIN LETTER ISSUED BY GENERAL MANAGER, BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY

†522. *Maulana Zafar Ali Khan: Is the Honourable Member for Railways aware of the fact that in the Bengal and Assam Railway the General Manager's letter No 80E/43, dated the 12th March, 1941, to the Deputy Chief Mechanical Engineer, Shops, Kanchrapara, all District Officers of the Mechanical Department and others was issued in contravention of the undertaking No VII given at a meeting held in February, 1931, between Sir George Rany and the deputation of Muslim Members of the Council of State and the Legislative Assembly and his assurance in the debate of the Legislative Assembly dated the 24th February, 1943?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The orders were not issued in contravention of the undertaking referred to by the Honourable Member to the effect that a Muslim Officer should be included, where possible, on Selection Boards. They were issued as subsidiary instructions to the recruitment regulations.

CERTAIN LETTER ISSUED BY GENERAL MANAGER, BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY

†523. *Maulana Zafar Ali Khan: (a) Is the Honourable Member for Railways aware of the fact that in the Workshops of the Bengal and Assam Railway, the General Manager's letter No 80E/43, dated the 12th March, 1941, to the

†Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner being absent.

Deputy Chief Mechanical Engineer, Shops, Kanchrapara, all District Officers of the Mechanical Department and the Assistant Personnel Officer, Kanchrapara, through Chief Mechanical Engineer is still extant in spite of the assurance about the constitution of the Selection Committee given on the floor of the Legislative Assembly, dated the 24th February, 1943?

(b) If the reply to (a) is in the affirmative, what action is contemplated by him to amend matters to safeguard the interest of the Muslims?

(c) If the reply to (a) is in the negative, has any new letter or circular superseding the letter referred to in (a) been issued?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a), (b) and (c) — Government was not aware of the actual position, but revised rules have been recently issued as an amendment to Appendix II to the State Railway Establishment Code, Volume I, and action will be taken to ensure that these rules are given effect to in the Mechanical Department of the Bengal and Assam Railway, if this has not already been done.

PROMOTIONS TO SELECTION POSTS IN MECHANICAL DEPARTMENT, BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY

*524. *Maulana Zafar Ali Khan: Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state the number of Muslims and non-Muslims promoted to the posts declared as selection posts in the Workshops and the Mechanical Department of the Bengal and Assam Railway vide the General Manager's letter No 80E/43, dated the 12th March, 1941, to the Deputy Chief Mechanical Engineer Shops, Kanchrapara, and others, during the period from April 1941, to September, 1944?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The information is not readily available and I regret I cannot undertake to collect it under the present conditions.

NON-REPRESENTATION OF MUSLIMS ON CERTAIN SELECTION BOARDS, BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY

†525. *Maulana Zafar Ali Khan: (a) Is the Honourable Member for Railways aware of the fact that in the Workshops and all the District Offices of the Mechanical Department of the Bengal and Assam Railway, Muslim Officers were not represented in the Selection Boards held for the promotion of staff to posts declared as selection posts, vide the General Manager's letter No 80E/13, dated the 12th March, 1944, to the Deputy Chief Mechanical Engineer, Shops, and all District Officers and others during the period from 1941 to September, 1944?

(b) If the reply to (a) is in the negative, will he be pleased to state the number of Selection Boards during the said period?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) The position is as stated, though this was not due to the orders referred to, but to the dearth of Muslim Officers on the railway as a whole and particularly in the Mechanical Department. Government understand, however, that efforts are being made to include a Muslim Officer in Selection Boards appointed for selecting persons for promotion to Selection posts.

(b) Does not arise.

IGNORING CLAIMS OF MUSLIMS FOR SELECTION POSTS ON BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY

†526. *Maulana Zafar Ali Khan: (a) Is the Honourable Member for Railways aware of the fact that the Selection Boards held on the Bengal and Assam Railway during the period from April, 1941, to September, 1944, in accordance with the General Manager's letter No 80E/43, dated the 12th March, 1941, referred to in (a) of the previous question ignored the claims of senior Muslims for the said selection posts?

(b) Is it a fact that Muslims who were comparatively senior to non-Muslims were not recommended by Superior Officers for examination by the said Selection Boards during the period April, 1941, to September, 1944?

†Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner being absent.

(c) If the reply to (b) is in the negative, will he be pleased to place the seniority list of the categories from which candidates for selection were drawn for the period from April, 1941, to September, 1944?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) No

(b) and (c) Government have no information and I regret I cannot undertake to collect it under the present conditions. A copy of the question will, however, be forwarded to the Railway Administration for such action as may be deemed necessary

PROMOTION OF NON-MUSLIM TALLY CLERKS OF CALCUTTA DISTRICT, BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY

527. ***Mr. Muhammad Hussain Choudhury:** Is the Honourable Member for Railways aware of the fact that non-Muslim Tally Clerks of the Calcutta District of the Bengal and Assam Railway were promoted to the posts of clerks in the "E" grade Rs 100—10/2—120 New Scale (Rs 110—10—140) Old Scale in the Office of the District Traffic Superintendent, Calcutta, during the years 1943 and 1944 by superseding the claims of Muslim clerks?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: No Tally Clerks were promoted as stated by the Honourable Member, but three non-Muslim Station Clerks were transferred to the office during the years 1943 and 1944 and promoted to 'E' Grade. The claims of all Clerks were considered

IGNORING CLAIMS OF MUSLIMS BY TRAFFIC SELECTION COMMITTEES, BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY

528. ***Mr. Muhammad Hussain Choudhury:** Is the Honourable Member for Railways aware of the fact that the Traffic Selection Committees of the Traffic Department of the Bengal and Assam Railway have never considered the claims of qualified and efficient Muslims for the following posts during the period from 1941 to 1944 —

(i) Goods Supervisor, (ii) Junior Goods Supervisor, (iii) Chief Booking Clerk, (iv) Head Parcel Clerk, (v) Station Superintendent, (vi) Deputy Station Superintendent, (vii) Chief Luggage Inspector, (viii) Chief Goods Clerk, (ix) Telegraph Inspector, (x) Signaller-in-Charge, (xi) Yard Master, (xii) Transhipment Foreman, (xiii) Head Trains Clerk, (xiv) Head Goods Clerk, and (xv) Shed Inspector?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Government have every reason to believe that the claims of eligible candidates of all communities are considered

STAAGNATION IN PROMOTION OF MUSLIM TALLY CLERKS, BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY

529. ***Mr. Muhammad Hussain Choudhury:** (a) Is the Honourable Member for Railways aware of the fact that during the period from 1941 to 1944 the Bengal and Assam Railway recruited Muslims as Tally Clerks in a greater number than non-Muslim Tally Clerks to make up the quota of 45 per cent but they were neither given training nor promoted on par with the non-Muslim Tally Clerks to the posts of Assistant Station Masters, Signallers, Number Takers, Coaching Clerks, Goods Clerks and Transhipment Clerks?

(b) If the reply to (a) is in the negative, what community-wise is the number of Tally Clerks recruited during the said period and given training and promotion in different categories detailed in (a)?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) and (b) Government have no information and I regret I cannot undertake to collect it under the present conditions. A copy of the question will, however, be forwarded to the Railway Administration for such action as may be deemed necessary

TRANSPORT DIFFICULTY FELT BY SIMLA FRUIT AND POTATO GROWERS

530. ***Mr. Badri Dutt Pande:** (a) Is the Honourable Member for War Transport aware of the fact that Simla Fruit and Potato growers are experiencing a great difficulty in the matter of transport between, Simla, Narkunda and Kotgarh

and thousands of maunds of their fruits were damaged last year due to lack of transport?

(b) Is it a fact that no permission was given to fruit growers to run motors on the above mentioned road, when similar permission is being given to forest contractors? Why is this differentiation made?

Sir Olaf Caroe: (a) Government is aware that fruit and potato growers have experienced difficulty in the matter of transport between Smla, Narkunda and Kotgahi, but have no information to the effect that any appreciable quantity of fruit was damaged last year on this account.

(b) The state of the road does not at present permit of its use by more than a total of ten lorries. All these are engaged in the carriage of timber required more urgently for military needs than fruit or potatoes and therefore given preference. The possibility of improving the capacity of the road and so to make some motor transport available to fruit and potato growers is under consideration.

Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: Is it the intention of the Government to allot two more motor lorries to the fruit growers there?

Sir Olaf Caroe: As soon as the road improves. No doubt the Honourable Member knows this road. It has only just been made possible for motor cars to go along it at all. At present only a limited number of cars can go along it. When it is improved, it is hoped that more motor traffic may be possible and fruit and potatoes are certainly among the leading interests in that part of the country.

STIPENDS TO APPRENTICES RECEIVING TRAINING AT JAMALPUR, EAST INDIAN RAILWAY

1531. *Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state

(a) the amount of stipends given to apprentices for the Railway Superior Services receiving training at Jamalpur, East Indian Railway, and

(b) if the Government have considered the abnormal rise in the necessities of life and revised the rate of their stipends accordingly, if not, do Government propose to revise the rate of their stipends in view of the prevailing prices of necessities of life?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Special Class Apprentices receiving training at Jamalpur are granted a stipend of Rs. 60 per mensem during the first three years and Rs. 75 per mensem in the fourth year.

(b) The necessary relief has been afforded to the Apprentices by the grant of dearness allowance.

PAUCITY OF MUSLIM HIGHER GRADE CLERKS IN FOOD SUPPLY DEPARTMENT, BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY

532. *Dr. Habibur Rahman: (a) Is the Honourable Member for Railways aware of the fact that in the Food Supply Department of the Bengal and Assam Railway, Muslims were not recruited in the higher clerical grades?

(b) If the reply to (a) is in the negative will he be pleased to state (i) the higher grades in the Head Office and outside, and (ii) qualifications of the incumbents of the said grades?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Direct recruitment is not ordinarily made to higher clerical grades. Such posts are filled by promotion which is not made on a communal basis.

(b) The information is not readily available and Government regret they cannot undertake to collect it under the present conditions.

PAUCITY OF MUSLIM ASSISTANT CONTROLLERS OF FOOD SUPPLIES, BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY

533. *Dr. Habibur Rahman: (a) Is the Honourable Member for Railways aware of the fact that qualified Muslim Inspectors of the Food Supply Department were not at all considered for promotion to the rank of Assistant Controller of Food Supplies on the Bengal and Assam Railway?

†Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner being absent.

(b) If the reply to (a) is in the negative, will he be pleased to state (i) the substantive pay, (ii) rank, and (iii) academic qualifications of the Assistant Controller of Food Supplies of the Bengal and Assam Railway and the academic qualifications of the Muslim Inspectors?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) The reply is in the negative

(b) The information is not readily available and I regret I cannot undertake to collect it under the present conditions

*** REVERSIONS OF MUSLIM ASSISTANT CONTROLLERS OF FOOD SUPPLIES, BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY**

534. *Dr. Habibar Rahman: (a) Is the Honourable Member for Railways aware of the fact that the Muslim Assistant Controllers of Food Supplies have been reverted without any enquiry being made into the allegations against them?

(b) If the reply to (a) is in the negative, will he be pleased to state the date when the enquiry was instituted and whether adequate chances for putting up defence were given to them?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The Honourable Member has not specified the railway or railways to which the question refers

PROMOTION OF NON-MUSLIM INFERIOR STAFF TO SUBORDINATE RANK IN FOOD SUPPLY DEPARTMENT, BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY

535. *Dr. Habibar Rahman: (a) Is the Honourable Member for Railways aware of the fact that within contravention of the prescribed communal ratio non-muslims are recruited in the inferior categories in the Food Supplies Department of the Bengal and Assam Railway and after a short time are promoted to the subordinate rank on grounds of experience?

(b) If the reply to (a) is in the negative, will he be pleased to place a statement on the table showing the number of the staff promoted from inferior to subordinate ranks from 1912 to 1914?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Promotions from inferior categories to subordinate posts are treated as direct recruitment for the purposes of communal reservations and, therefore, the promotions referred to must be subject to the communal reservations prescribed

(b) The information is not readily available and I regret I cannot undertake to collect it under the present conditions

SENIOR INSPECTORS, ETC., OF FOOD DEPARTMENT, BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY.

536. *Dr. Habibar Rahman: Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to place a comparative statement, community-wise, concerning the Food Department of the Bengal and Assam Railway, showing the following items for the years 1942 and 1944

- (i) number of Senior Inspectors,
- (ii) number of Canteen Inspectors,
- (iii) number of Ward Keepers,
- (iv) number of Clerks?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The information is not readily available and I regret I cannot undertake to collect it under the present conditions

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: In view of the large number of questions asked about the food distribution in the Assam Bengal Railway, will the Honourable Member make some enquiries about the matter? I have received a good deal of complaints

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I have received on one day some 70 questions about the Bengal & Assam Railway. But that railway is very much in the way and I cannot trouble the railway, in such circumstances to collect details of what are relatively minor matters of administration

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: But Muslim interests must not suffer on account of war conditions, nor must Muslims starve

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Certainly not.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Will you make enquiries about this?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Certainly. Who is starving?

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Muslim employees of the railway

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: That is not so

POSTAL AND TELEGRAPH SUPERINTENDENTS IN BIHAR AND ORISSA

1537. *Mr. Kailash Bihari Lal: Will the Secretary for Posts and Air be pleased to state

(a) how many Postal Superintendents and Telegraph Superintendents there are in the Bihar and Orissa circle, and

(b) how many of these Superintendents are Biharis and Oriyas and how many are other than Biharis and Oriyas?

Mr. W. H. Shoober: (a) There are fourteen Postal and R M S Superintendents and there is one Telegraph Superintendent

(b) Of the Postal and R M S Superintendents, four are Behārees There is no Oriya

There are eleven non-Biharis and non-Oriyas including the Telegraph Superintendent

EXPENDITURE ON SHIFTING OF DEAD LETTER OFFICE FROM CALCUTTA TO PATNA

538. *Mr. Badri Dutt Pande (on behalf of Mr. Satya Narayan Sinha) (a) Will the Secretary for Posts and Air be pleased to state the expenditure incurred on account of the shifting of the Dead Letter Office from Calcutta to Patna in the following heads

(i) travelling allowance, (ii) special bonus, (iii) cost of removal of furniture and records, (iv) Railway freight, (v) cost of repairing of furniture damaged in transit, and (vi) cost of construction of the big hall at Patna for the accommodation of the Dead Letter Office?

(b) Is the work of the Dead Letter Office being satisfactorily performed in Patna?

(c) Have the Government any proposal for taking the Dead Letter Office back to Calcutta in near future?

(d) Are the Government aware of the fact that there have been constant agitations by the public, press and the postal employees of the Circle for a separate Dead Letter Office for the Bihar and Orissa Circle?

(e) What are the reasons for not providing the Bihar and Orissa Circle with a Dead Letter Office in spite of the pressing demand of the public for the same?

(f) Are the Government aware of the fact that the work of the transcription which used to be performed by the Calcutta General Post Office and sorting have since been transferred to the Dead Letter Office, Patna, owing to the unavailability of Nagri and Urdu knowing hands in Calcutta and the same is now being performed satisfactorily?

(g) Will the Honourable Member consider that under the circumstances Patna is a most suitable place for the location of the Dead Letter Office which deals with the articles mostly written in Nagri and Urdu characters?

(h) Is the Honourable Member aware that Patna is more economical than Calcutta in respect of scale of pay, house-rent etc?

(i) Do Government realise the fact that the expenditure to be incurred on re-shifting the Dead Letter Office to Calcutta will be an unnecessary drain-age on the postal revenue?

Mr. W. H. Shoober: (a) The expenditure incurred was as follows

	Rs
Travelling allowances	3,954
Special Bonus	4,979
Cost of removal of furniture and records	783
Railway freight	1,022
Cost of repairing of furniture	722
Cost of construction of the hall at Patna	20,850

(b) Yes

(c) No

(d) No

(e) The Honourable Member is referred to the reply to part (d) of the question

†Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner being absent

- (f) The fact is not as stated
- (g) No
- (h) Yes
- (i) No

**VACANCIES OF SUPERINTENDENT IN THE OFFICE OF DIRECTOR GENERAL, POSTS
AND TELEGRAPHS**

539. *Mr. Piare Lajl Kureel: Will the Secretary for Posts and Air be pleased to state

(a) if it is a fact that vacancies in the cadre of Superintendents in the office of the Director General, Posts and Telegraphs are filled by pure selection,

(b) if it is a fact that the order in which the officials are first selected can not be altered if they continue to maintain efficiency,

(c) if there are some permanent vacancies in the cadre of Superintendents in that office for a long time and that no substantive appointments have so far been made thereto although a number of officials have been continually officiating as Superintendents for a pretty long period,

(d) if the replies to (a), (b) and (c) above are in the affirmative, will he be pleased to state the reasons why these vacancies have not been filled up on a substantive basis so far, and

(e) if it is a fact that the lien of some of the officiating Superintendents has been suspended for a long time from the Assistant's cadre even after due consideration of their ability and efficiency, if so, will Government please take steps to confirm them immediately against the existing vacancies?

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: (a) Yes

(b) The exact implications of the orders bearing on the point raised by the Honourable Member were not clear to the Director-General and a reference has been made to the appropriate Department for elucidation

(c) Yes

(d) The vacancies have remained unfilled pending a decision on the reference mentioned in the reply to (b)

(e) Yes but the suspension of lien in the Assistants' cadre has nothing to do with their permanent appointment in the Superintendents' cadre

Khan Bahadur Shaikh Fazl-i-Haq Piracha: May I know how many Muslims are permanent Superintendents in the Director General's office and has ever a permanent Muslim Superintendent been appointed in that office in the whole of its history? If not, why not?

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: To the best of my knowledge, there is at present no permanent Muslim Superintendent in the office of the Director-General of Posts & Telegraphs. The reply to the second part of the question is, (but I am open to correction) that in the past there has been one permanent Superintendent who was afterwards promoted to Superintendent of Post Offices. The reply to the Honourable Member's question as to why there are now no Muslim Superintendents is that the office of the Director General was originally formed in Calcutta at a time before communal rotation was applied to recruitment and most of the senior officials in the office happen to be men of other communities. The position is now changing.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Am I to understand that since the establishment of British Rule in India only one permanent Superintendent was appointed in that Department?

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: May I ask the Honourable Member to repeat his question?

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: In the past only one permanent Muslim Inspector has been appointed? This is what the Honourable gentleman said. Since what date? Since the establishment of British Rule in India?

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: That goes into past history and I am afraid I myself cannot state when the Director General's was first actually formed.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: May I know from the Honourable Member whether that Muhammadan Superintendent was also demoted because he was not competent?

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: I have no information on that point.

Mr. Lalchand Navarai: May I know that those who are now appointed are competent to hold their offices and they have not superseded anyone?

Mr. W. H. Shoober: The appointment of Superintendents in the office of the Director General, Posts & Telegraphs, is by pure selection and the men who are holding their posts have been selected for these posts and may be assumed to be competent to hold them.

Mr. Piare Lal Kureel: Are there any Scheduled Caste persons officiating as Superintendent? If so, whether they are confirmed? If not, why not?

Mr. W. H. Shoober: There is one Scheduled Caste Superintendent in the directorate of the Posts and Telegraphs, I do not think it is in order to discuss the merits of officials on the floor of this House.

(At this stage Maulvi Syed Murtuza Sahib Bahadur stood up.)

Mr. Lalchand Navarai: Has he superseded any Muhammadan?

Mr. President: Maulvi Murtuza Sahib Bahadur

Maulvi Syed Murtuza Sahib Bahadur: Has any enquiry been made to mend matters? Already there is one efficient Muslim hand with 27 years service in the Department and he has been officiating as Superintendent and he has not been made permanent. Will the Government make enquiries into the matter and see that it is put right?

Mr. W. H. Shoober: I would suggest that it is not quite proper to go into the question of promotion in an office on the floor of this House.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Who is this gentleman to suggest what is proper and what is not? That is the prerogative of the Chair.

Mr. W. H. Shoober: I was appealing to the Chair.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) I have only to see that the Rules and Standing Orders are observed.

DISCONTINUANCE OF TELEPHONES OF PRIVATE SUBSCRIBERS

540. *Mr. Sri Prakasa: Will the Secretary for Posts and Air be pleased to state

(a) if it is a fact that a large number of telephones have been discontinued from private premises in various places and have not been fitted elsewhere either, entailing great loss to the Department,

(b) the law under which this was done,

(c) if the Department had made sure that there has been no violation of the terms of the agreement between the subscribers concerned and Government, in the process,

(d) if it is a fact that district magistrates of various places had a big hand in getting telephones taken away, and that telephone subscribers were served with notices by them saying "attend my office at 10 A.M. tomorrow to show cause why your telephone should not be disconnected", if so, whether the procedure had the sanction of the Department,

(e) if there are any political reasons for the withdrawal of telephone facilities of private firms and individuals,

(f) what were the exact considerations which led to such withdrawals,

(g) what was the exact position of the district magistrate in the procedure, and

(h) if it is a fact that payment of subscriptions to war loans demanded by authorities helped in many cases in the immediate restoration of the disconnected telephones?

Mr. W. H. Shoober: (a) A number of telephones has been disconnected from private premises in various places. Government is not aware that any large number has remained idle.

(b) Under the conditions of the Hiring Contract between the subscriber and the Posts and Telegraphs Department and Defence of India Rule 17.

(c) Yes.

(d) Powers under sub-rule (1) of the Defence of India Rule 17 have been delegated to District Magistrates and they have exercised these powers in certain cases. Government are not aware that any improper procedure has been adopted by District Magistrates.

(e) No

(f) To meet the requirements for war purposes and to avoid excessive overloading

(g) The powers delegated to District Magistrates are exercised at their discretion

(h) Government has no information

Mr. Sri Prakasa: While I am thankful to the Honourable Member for having saved my own telephone, may I know with regard to part (a) of the question, whether he would kindly make enquiries from Benares and find out if a certain number of telephone instruments are not lying idle, entailing loss to the Department?

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: I feel that I should explain to the Honourable Member that the fact of a telephone instrument lying idle may not mean that any telephone has been unnecessarily disconnected. The whole object of these disconnections was to relieve the load on the system and therefore it was necessary for a few lines to remain idle. An exchange is not loaded to what would appear to be its full capacity. You have to leave a good deal spare or else the exchange cannot work up to the optimum.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable Member kindly enquire from Benares whether the views of the local officers in charge of the telephone system there coincide with what the Honourable Member himself has expressed here this morning?

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: If there is any definite grievance in Benares regarding the administration of the telephone system, as it appears from the Honourable Member's question, I should be very happy to make enquiries.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: With regard to the Honourable Member's reply to part (d) of the question, does the Honourable Member think that a notice given in the terms which I have quoted in my question is in consonance with the desire of the Department as regards the propriety of the notice and the language in which it should be couched?

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: On the principle that the customer is always right, I would certainly prefer the Department to couch their notice in more polite terms.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: In view of the fact that the notice was not from the Department but from the District Magistrate, may I know how the Department is going to deal with a District Magistrate of this ilk?

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: I am afraid that I misunderstood the origin of this notice. Of course the Department cannot do anything in the matter. I am sorry, Sir.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: In the interests of the Department the Honourable Member can inform the District Magistrates to be more polite in the language they use and tell them that such language tends to the detriment of the goodname of the Department and to their positive loss.

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: I am afraid it is a matter purely for the Provincial Governments.

UNCLAIMED BALANCES FROM POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANK, ETC

541. **Mr. Sri Prakasa:** Will the Secretary for Posts and Air please state—

(a) if it is a fact that a large amount of money is lying with the Post Office, due to death or other causes, as undrawn balances from Post Office Savings Bank,

(b) the number and amount of unpaid, ordinary and value-payable money orders,

(c) the steps, if any, Government propose to take on its own initiative, to get the money due paid back to the persons concerned or their heir and survivors,

(d) if any accounts are kept of such moneys,

(e) the manner in which it is utilised; and

(f) if it is a fact that some portions are used for the benefit of the postal employees?

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: (a) Yes

(b) Information regarding the number of unpaid money orders is not available. The amount of such orders credited to accounts for the year 1943-44 is Rs 4,43,168

(c) The departmental rules already make full provision to secure the object which the Honourable Member has in mind

(d) Yes

(e) The value of Money Orders which cannot be paid is credited to Government but the amounts can be claimed at any time by the person entitled. Savings Bank deposits do not lapse to Government. The accounts in respect of them can be re-opened at any time and the amounts paid to the depositors

(f) No

Mr. Sri Prakasa: May I know what the amount, in round figures, is of the unpaid balances in the Savings Bank Deposits treated as practically dead?

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: The balance of Savings Bank dead accounts up till the end of 1942-43 was Rs 2,14,90,421. At the end of 1943-44 it was Rs 1,88,26,311, from which it will be seen that the amount has fallen in the last year.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: May I request the Honourable Member to repeat his answer to part (f) of the question?

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: The answer is "No."

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: With regard to money orders, may I know after what time the unpaid money orders lapse to the Government?

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: They do not lapse to the Government, unless they cannot be paid at all. They can be claimed at any time. If the person entitled makes a claim after some years, then the whole matter is re-opened.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: Is there a period of limitation after which the money lapses to Government?

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: No, Sir.

TIMINGS OF CONNECTING TRAINS AT JUNCTION STATIONS

542. *Mr. Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state

(a) if it is a fact that very often trains are so scheduled at junction stations that those trains that should be connecting trains for them, are timed to leave just before the arrival of the other trains, thus standing passengers hopelessly,

(b) if so, what exactly the purpose of this is,

(c) if it is also a fact that trains meant to be connecting trains, do not increase the time of their stoppage at junction stations when the other incoming train is late, even for a few minutes only, even in the case of ordinary passenger trains, causing unnecessary and avoidable inconvenience, and

(d) if Government propose to request Railway administrations to extend the time of stoppages of connecting trains to a reasonable extent, as necessary, and also to time trains at junction stations more reasonably?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: If the Honourable Member will indicate what particular junction stations or railways he has in mind, I shall obtain details and furnish a reply in due course.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable Member kindly enquire how many times a week the connecting trains from Benares and Jaunpur miss connection at the Janghai Railway Station on the E. I. Ry. for Allahabad?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I will make enquiries.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: With regard to part (c) of the question, will the Honourable Member please note that I was actually stranded for 24 hours at Gaya Railway Station as the connecting passenger train started off while mine from Asansol was a few minutes late?

HARASSMENT OF CIVILIAN PASSENGERS, BY MILITARY MEN AT RAILWAY STATIONS AND IN TRAINS

543. *Mr. Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state

(a) if he has received complaints that ordinary passengers are prevented from entering Railway compartments not reserved for the military, and also when some military persons are there and the room is available;

(b) if he will issue instructions to Railway servants to help in the entraining of passengers in the compartments not reserved for the military; and

(c) if he proposes to request the military authorities to issue instructions to their staff, while travelling by trams, to be courteous to the civil population and not obstruct and harass them in any way, not to take up more room in the general compartment than is reasonably necessary for themselves, and lastly not to handle roughly the vendors of food stuffs and other articles at Railway stations, but to pay fully and promptly for everything they take?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Government have received some complaints on the subject

(b) The existing railway rules provide for this

(c) The military authorities have already issued instructions on matters referred to in this part of the question

Mr. Sri Prakasa: With regard to part (b) of the question, may I know whether it is not a fact that very often when passengers go up to Railway officers for assistance in such matters, they are told that these officials dare not approach the military?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Difficulties do arise as every Honourable Member knows. The Railway staff do the best they can under the circumstances

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: The Honourable Member has referred to "the existing rules" in answer to part (b) of the question. What are these existing rules?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: There are "General rules for open lines," Section 115 (B). I have not got the details of all the railways with me but on the North Western Railway, for instance, there are instructions in their Operating Manual, No 5007, whereby conductor-guards are supposed to guide upper class passengers in intermediate stations, secure accommodation, both reserved or available for them and see that lower class passengers are evenly distributed in the trains and are not overcrowded in any particular carriage or compartment and so on

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: In view of the fact that there is an evasion of this provision every time, will the Honourable Member at once circularise all the railway servants to the effect that civilian convenience must be attended to in such matters?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: They are fully aware of it but if the Honourable Member would put himself in the position of a railway servant in the present circumstances, he will appreciate how difficult it is to carry out the rules to the satisfaction of everybody concerned

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: In view of the difficulties which have been pointed out in this question, will the Honourable Member see his way to reward those railway servants who, in the face of such difficulties, have carried out their duties to the satisfaction of the passengers?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: It is the duty of the railway servants to carry out their duties satisfactorily to all concerned

Mr. Lalchand Navarai: Have not the military authorities issued instructions to their personnel in regard to this matter and is it a fact that those instructions are disobeyed?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The military have issued them on several occasions. I say without hesitation that in the vast majority of cases the rules are adhered to but there are exceptional cases

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is the Honourable Member aware of any instruction given to these guards that they should also take the trouble of guiding third class passengers in getting into the trains?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Yes, they do their best in the circumstances

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is there any such instruction?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Not in the particular manual to which I referred, but this is only one of several I did not say that this was comprehensive at all

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable Member consider the advisability of at least now, late as it is, giving that instruction to all the guards of trains in this country to guide the third class passengers also in finding accommodation in trains?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: According to the instructions given here, they do their best. But the Honourable Member can well understand, if he will think for one moment, how difficult it is for one guard to shepherd several hundred passengers

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable Member suggest the exact procedure to be adopted by the aggrieved persons in these cases, besides allowing themselves to be helplessly stranded?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I think the Honourable Member has gone back to the previous question

Mr. Sri Prakasa: No, I am here. The Honourable Member said that railway officials do their best in such matters. What I ask is that if any person is aggrieved and finds that the railway officials are not doing their best, what is the procedure that he should adopt apart from allowing himself to be stranded?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The question of stranding I think does not properly come into this question but he should report to the next senior railway official at the station

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: In view of the fact that the Honourable Member says that for one guard it is too much to see to all third class passengers, will he consider the advisability of appointing other persons in every train to help third class passengers in finding accommodation?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: We have greatly increased the staff, but there are limits

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Are there any limits to the number of third class passengers?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: No, Sir

APPOINTMENT OF COIMBATORE DISTRICT CANDIDATES AS POSTAL CLERKS IN MYSORE DIVISION

544. **Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** Will the Secretary for Post and An please state

(a) the rules regarding the domicile and possession of a working knowledge of the language in the division in which a candidate is employed, which were considered while recruiting candidates for the clerical cadre in the Posts and Telegraph Department from the year 1937,

(b) if the answer is in the affirmative, will the Honourable Member state how in spite of the repeated protests and requests made by the officials, unions and even heads of divisions nearly 40 young men from Coimbatore District in the Madras circle, were sent to Mysore Division from the year 1937, onwards, where the language, customs, manners and climate of which are different from that of Coimbatore District, and

(c) if whether he will consider repatriating all these young men to Coimbatore District or any Tamil District within a reasonable time and fill up the consequent vacancies in Mysore Division by direct recruitment from Mysoreans?

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: (a) The local recruitment rules in the Post and Telegraph Department prescribe that a candidate joining the subordinate service must as a general rule belong to the revenue division (or other equivalent revenue unit) in which he enlists. When however the jurisdiction of an officer extends beyond one revenue division, candidates domiciled in all those divisions are eligible for appointment. The possession of a working knowledge of the language of the division is not taken into account at the time of recruitment but a candidate before confirmation is required to pass a test in the local Indian language.

(b) Between 1937 and 1943, 40 candidates belonging to the Coimbatore District were selected for appointment in the Mysore Postal Division. No protests about these appointments were received by the Postmaster-General from any Union or from the Divisional Superintendents Revenue Districts and Postal Divisions are not co-terminus. A portion of the Coimbatore District is in the Mysore Postal Division and under the rules quoted above, recruitment to that Division is also permissible from the Coimbatore revenue district.

(c) Does not arise.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I know whether he has not received any representations from those people concerned about the difficulties they are experiencing in Mysore?

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: I am afraid I have not definite information about that. The persons concerned may have represented to the Postmaster General — it did not come to the notice of the Government.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: In view of the fact that they are suffering will he recommend to the Postmaster General that they may be transferred to places where they can have the convenience of living?

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: I do not feel that this is a matter of suffering. A man offers himself for recruitment in a certain postal division, knowing that he may have to go to a place where he does not speak his mother tongue. Many of us from overseas did that when we came to India into the services.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: But surely if it is possible, an arrangement can be made?

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: I am afraid it could not be done without administrative inconvenience. A man cannot be posted exactly to the station of his choice. It would upset the whole of the administrative machinery.

NOMINATION TO RAILWAY ADVISORY COMMITTEES BY CENTRAL ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RAILWAYS

545. *Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam: Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state

(a) if it is a fact that at present the Central Advisory Council for Railways nominates one representative to each local advisory committee for Railways, when was this convention introduced and how,

(b) if it is a fact that the convention was (i) that no member who is not a resident of the particular local area should be appointed to the advisory committee of that area, and (ii) that no member of the Central Advisory Council for Railways should be nominated to more than one advisory committee,

(c) has this convention been changed, if so, when and why,

(d) what is the number of the local advisory committees for Railways, in how many of them representatives from the Central Advisory Council have been nominated, how many of the representatives are Hindus and how many of them are Muslims, and

(e) how many representatives are serving on more than one committee?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) The reply to the first part is in the affirmative. As regards the second part, the Convention was introduced from the 1st April, 1937.

(b) (i). The Central Advisory Council for Railways agreed in September, 1938 that only those residing within the area served by the Railway should be considered eligible for election to that Railway's Local Advisory Committee.

(ii) The suggestion that no Member should serve on more than two Committees unless there was no other candidate was accepted by the Central Advisory Council at their meeting in April 1944.

(c) No, the second part does not arise.

(d) So far as the State-managed Railways are concerned, there are 20 Local Advisory Committees. Of these, 17 Local Advisory Committees have representatives of the Central Advisory Council, while the seats on the other three are still vacant. Of the Central Advisory Council Representatives, seven are Muslims, one is a Hindu and one a Parsi.

(e) There are five representatives of the Central Advisory Council for Railways who are serving on more than one Committee.

Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam: With reference to part (e), is it a fact that all these 17 representatives are Muhammadans?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I have replied that seven are Muslims, one is a Hindu and one is a Parsi.

Mr. Frank R. Anthony: Will the Honourable Member endeavour to see that members of the Central Advisory Council—each one of them can be said to speak on behalf of the railways or to represent railway interests?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: They are there primarily to represent the interests of the public.

STOPPING OF FIRST AND INTER CLASS TICKETS ON MALAKWAL BHERA LINE

546. *Khan Bahadur Shakh Fazl-i-Haq Piracha: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state if it is a fact that First and Inter class tickets are not issued on Malakwal Bhera Line, North Western Railway? If so what are the reasons for stopping First and Inter class traffic on this line?

(b) If Government is aware of the fact that by doing so, the Railway is losing a good deal of income, specially in case of the Inter class traffic?

(c) If Government knows that in the train that runs in Malakwal Bhera Line, there is a compartment, on which Inter class is painted, but there are no cushions on the seats in the compartment? If Government also realise that if only cushions are provided in that compartment, there will be no extra expenditure in again starting the traffic of Inter class passengers and that there will be an increase in the Railway income?

(d) If it is a fact that Inter class passengers feel a great inconvenience in getting their Inter class tickets from Malakwal as no such tickets are issued either at Bhera or at Minn?

(e) If the Government propose to consider the necessity of introducing at least Inter class traffic on Malakwal Bhera Line?

(f) If it is a fact that there is no Railway telegraphic or telephonic connection on Malakwal Bhera Railway Line and also if it is a fact that in absence of both these things there is a very great inconvenience to the travelling public and the Railway staff at Railway stations on this line?

(g) If Government, therefore, be pleased to consider the desirability of re-instating the telegraphic connection or at least installing telephonic connections on Malakwal Bhera Railway Line, between the Railway stations?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) First and intermediate class tickets are not being issued for local traffic on the Malakwal-Bhera branch of the N W Railway from 1st October, 1941, as such accommodation is not provided on that section owing to the insignificant traffic in these classes.

(b) In view of the traffic offering in these classes being insignificant, the provision of first and intermediate class accommodation would result in such accommodation being wasted and reducing the accommodation for third class passengers.

(c) As regards the first part, Government are informed that the Divisional Superintendent, Rawalpindi, was instructed in July, 1941, to mark composite inter and third class carriages available on that section as third. The latter part of the question does not arise in view of my reply to part (b) above.

(d) No, as passengers desiring to travel in first or inter class beyond Malakwal or *vice versa* can obtain through combined tickets available in second or third class on the Bhera-Malakwal section and first or inter class for the remaining portion of the journey.

(e) No Government do not consider that the introduction of inter class accommodation on the Malakwal-Bhera branch is justified.

(f) The reply to the first part is in the affirmative and to the second part in the negative. I might inform the Honourable Member that there is a public telegraph office at Bhera.

(g) No, as the heavy expenditure involved in constructing telegraph and telephone communications is not justified.

CLOSING OF HAZURPUR RAILWAY STATION ON MALAKWAL BHEERA LINE

547. *Khan Bahadur Shaikh Fazl-i-Haq Piracha: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state if it is a fact that Hazurpur Railway station on Malakwal Bheera Line, North Western Railway has been closed? If so, what are the reasons for that?

(b) In view of the great inconvenience to the public, will Government please consider the reopening of this Railway station? If, for certain reasons, this cannot be done at present, do Government intend to open the station some time afterwards? What are the necessary conditions on fulfilment of which the Railway station in question can be opened?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) The reply to the first part is in the affirmative. As regards the second part, the station was closed in pursuance of the policy of conserving coal by the elimination of halts of passenger and goods trains at road-side stations.

(b) This station has been closed as a temporary measure and its re-opening will be considered with an improvement in the coal position. The last part does not arise.

MANUFACTURE OF ARTIFICIAL FERTILIZERS

548. *Mr. K. C. Neogy: Will the Honourable the Supply Member be pleased to state —

(a) if the Technical Mission has submitted its report to Government on the manufacture of artificial fertilisers and if the Government propose to publish the recommendations of the Mission. If so, when,

(b) if it is a fact that Government propose to start the manufacture of artificial fertilisers with the assistance of the Imperial Chemical Industries, if so what the terms and conditions under which the assistance of the Imperial Chemical Industries is to be secured are,

(c) if it is a fact that the Imperial Chemical Industries had already secured some concessions in the Khewra Salt Mines of the Punjab and in the neighbouring areas containing gypsum, and were making preparations to extend its activities in India by building plans for the manufacture of nitrogenous products, even before the appointment of the Technical Mission by Government, and

(d) if it is a fact that Indian private enterprise in the manufacture of artificial fertilisers has been ruled out for the present because the Imperial Chemical Industries were not inclined to give as much help to private enterprise as it was prepared to give to a government scheme, or the decision to exclude private enterprise for the time being was taken on the ground that it was unwise from the British point of view to hand over this industry, which is connected with the explosives industry, wholly to an Indian agency?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: (a) Yes, Sir. The report has already been published.

(b) The report of the Mission is under the consideration of Government and no decision has yet been reached. Government propose that if they decide to set up one or more factories such factories should be state-owned and state operated.

(c) Government have no information.

(d) No, Sir.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: With regard to part (d) of the question, will the Honourable Member be in a position to give this House an approximate idea about the time that the Government will take in coming to a decision on this matter?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: I hope within the next two or three weeks we may be able to come to a decision. A conference with the Provincial Governments is fixed for Tuesday the 21st of this month.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I know that the Government has come to a decision that it shall be state-owned?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: The Government's proposal is that it should be state-owned, but it is a matter in which we have to consult Provincial Governments.

Mr. K. O. Neogy: Will the Honourable Member make an endeavour to place the Government's final scheme before this House early in the next Session?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: I hope to published the Government's final scheme to the public

Mr. K. O. Neogy: I wanted to know whether the Honourable Member will make an attempt to place the scheme before the House for its consideration?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: What I said was that the scheme which the Government will ultimately arrive at will be before the public as soon as Government have arrived at a decision and that will be much earlier than the next Session of the Assembly

Mr. K. O. Neogy: Do I take it that action will have to be taken by Government before the next Session of this House begins?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: I believe so. This is an urgent matter and we have to get into touch with those who are in a position to carry out the scheme

(b) WRITTEN ANSWERS

MANUFACTURE OF SULPHATE OF AMMONIA

549. *Mr. K. O. Neogy: Will the Honourable the Supply Member be pleased to state —

(a) if the words "private industry" occurring in the Honourable Member's statement to the Press on 14th May, 1944, to the effect that private industry would step in and take over production after the first 860,000 tons of sulphate of ammonia had been produced, meant the Imperial Chemical Industries or Indian private industry;

(b) Whether it is not a fact that if the manufacture of explosives and of sulphate of ammonia is in other than Indian hands, the scope for separate development of related nitrogenous products will be so limited that the industry cannot be economically established or operated,

(c) if the Government considered the necessity for giving an undertaking that in view of the possible post-war competition from abroad, they are prepared to protect the Indian industry by protective duties, and from internal competition by the enactment of anti-trust laws and other measures, and

(d) whether the Government proposes to give the fullest publicity to every stage of their negotiations with the Imperial Chemical Industries and would secure the approval of this House to any agreement that may be finally entered into with the Imperial Chemical Industries?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: (a) No Press Note was issued on 14th May, 1944. The Honourable Member is presumably referring to the Press Note issued on 1st May, 1944, in which it was stated "the possibility of independent enterprise was not precluded but in the national interest it was considered necessary that substantial state controlled enterprise should hold first place". The reference to "independent enterprise" was to Indian private industry and not to Imperial Chemical Industries.

(b) and (c) These questions do not arise in view of the reply I have just given to part (b) of question No. 548

(d) No negotiations have been opened with Imperial Chemical Industries

SELECTION OF SITES FOR CHEMICAL FERTILIZER INDUSTRY

550. *Mr. K. O. Neogy: Will the Honourable the Supply Member be pleased to state —

(a) if, in regard to the selection of sites for the proposed chemical fertiliser industry, due regard will be paid to the respective advantages in costs and other matters presented by its location near to coal fields or to iron and steel works;

(b) if it is a fact that production of fertilisers by methods of electrolysis of water for hydrogen, and of power supply by means of hydro-electric plants.

means a higher cost of production per ton than is the case in production through water gas methods for hydrogen and the use of thermal electricity, if so, whether this factor would be considered in the selection of the site or sites, and

(c) whether it is a fact that the First Report of the Reconstruction Committee of Council has expressed itself in favour of development of industries near hydro-electric sources, and against the starting of new industries on any large scale near coal-fields owing to the scarcity of water in these areas, if so, will this argument be applied in the case of selecting sites for the fertiliser industry also?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: (a) to (c) As I have just stated in reply to part (b) of question No 548, the report of the Technical Mission is now under the consideration of Government. The factors mentioned by the Honourable Member will be taken into account in reaching a decision.

STABILIZING THE PRICE OF SULPHATE OF AMMONIA

551. *Mr. K. C. Neogy: Will the Honourable Member for Supply be pleased to state —

(a) the fair selling price of sulphate of ammonia and if the policy of price stabilisation at that level by payment of a subsidy to the consumers would be considered,

(b) if he is aware that the selling price of Rs. 120 per ton reported in the press has given rise to apprehensions that it suggests the use of methods of electrolysis for production of hydrogen and of hydro-electric power supply, to the exclusion of water-gas and thermal electricity, and that the cost per ton would be less by about Rs. 40 if the latter processes are adopted,

(c) if it is a fact that the British Sulphate of Ammonia Federation is dominated by the Imperial Chemical Industries and it fixes the price of sulphate of ammonia on a so-called world parity basis, prices being actually fixed for each country according to the local conditions of competition and that since the present Indian producers are also members of the Federation, there has been in fact no competition in India,

(d) if Government propose to limit the profits on the artificial fertiliser industry by the imposition of a ceiling price per ton on manufactured product, and

(e) whether it is to be undertaken by Government or by private enterprise?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: (a) The fair selling prices of sulphate of ammonium must vary from time to time according to the costs of production and market prices of food grains. The policy of subsidising the use of Ammonium Sulphate by cultivators in respect of food grains is already followed.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Government have no information.

(d) and (e) The Honourable Member's attention is invited to the reply given to part (b) of question No 548.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR STARTING CHEMICAL FERTILIZER INDUSTRY

552. *Mr. K. C. Neogy: Will the Honourable the Supply Member be pleased to state —

(a) the arrangements made by the Government of India with the Provincial Governments and Indian States regarding the starting of the chemical fertiliser industry, and the proportions in which the cost, the profits and the distribution of the manufactured product are to be shared in the respective cases;

(b) if the question has been considered, and if not, will it be considered, to a contribution being made to the industry from the Indian Army Budget as an insurance against shortage of raw materials for explosives in the event of a sudden war;

(c) if Government intends to hand over the process of distribution to private agencies, or to any central non-profit making marketing organisation to be set up for the purpose.

(d) if Government propose to take any steps to conduct a propaganda for popularising the use of chemical fertilisers by cultivators, if so, on what lines is such propaganda to proceed?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: (a) to (d). As I have already stated in the reply to part (b) of question No 548, these questions are already under consideration in connection with the report of the Technical Mission. It is intended to hold a conference on November 20th and 21st 1944, with a representative of all India Committee and with Provincial Governments. The Government of India will decide their policy in the light of these discussions.

IMPLEMENTING OF TRAVEL FACILITIES

553. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state

(a) the steps Government have taken so far or propose to take to increase the travel facilities such as additional accommodation for ladies in inter and third class compartments, and

(b) the effective steps Government have taken in pursuance of their assurance given to the Central Advisory Council for Railways on the 6th April, 1944 to run more local trains, either in preference to through trains or independently in order to cater to the travel needs of local public?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) I am not aware of the action railways have found it possible to take on any representation which may have been made to Local Advisory Committees as a result of my request to members of the Council at the meeting held on the 6th April, 1944. I am, however, unable to give any undertaking that railways will find it possible to increase the accommodation for ladies in inter and third class compartments.

(b) The Honourable Member is under a misapprehension for no assurance was given to the Central Advisory Council for Railways on the 6th April, 1944, that more local trains, either in preference to through trains or independently, would be run in order to cater to the travelling needs of the local public. On the contrary, the Council were informed specifically that no increase in train services was possible owing to the shortage of coaching stock.

STEPS FOR PUBLIC COOPERATION AGAINST CORRUPTION AMONG RAILWAY EMPLOYEES

554. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state

(a) the effective measures taken by his Department in pursuance of the suggestions made in the Central Advisory Board for Railways at its meeting held on the 6th April, 1944 to enlist fullest co-operation of the public to put down the corruption rampant in the ranks of Railway employees, and

(b) the statistical figures to indicate the effectiveness of the 'Anti-Travel' campaign?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) As a result of the discussion in the Central Advisory Council for Railways held on the 6th April, 1944, the following steps were taken to prevent corruption—

(i) Railway Administrations have requested important Chambers of Commerce and Trade Associations to circularise their Members to refrain from paying gratuities to railway staff.

(ii) Special investigation staffs have been appointed to enquire into alleged cases of bribery,

(iii) The procedure in force in respect of the registration and booking of goods, securing of wagons, reservation of berths, etc., has been publicised in the Press and also notices and posters on the subject are being exhibited at stations, parcels and goods offices, so that the public may not, through ignorance of procedure, pay any sum to railway staff over and above that legitimately due to the rail service they require.

Government would welcome further suggestions from the Honourable Members of this House, which would assist in the campaign against corruption on the part of both the giver and the taker of bribes.

(b) A centrally controlled scheme for "Travel less" campaign was formulated in consultation with the Information and Broadcasting Department on the recommendation of the Central Advisory Council for Railways and was put into action from March, 1944

I am laying on the table a comparative statement showing the number of passengers carried over all Railways for the years 1942, 1943 and from January to August, 1944 which indicates that the campaign has not achieved the desired result. The scheme, therefore, is being gradually wound up without incurring additional expenditure beyond the original sanction.

Comparative statement showing number of Passengers carried over all Railways (In thousands)

	1942	1943	1944
January	55,592	55,443	69,048
February	52,804	55,436	70,808
March	56,077	67,836	79,384
April	54,626	63,946	73,461
May	56,412	70,918	78,904
June	56,797	69,884	77,389
July	56,591	67,522	77,920
August	49,643	68,000	78,855
September	44,471	66,215	
October	48,651	64,741	
November	53,136	67,196	
December	54,226	68,510	

STEPS FOR ISSUE OF MORE BUS LICENSES BY PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS

555. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state

(a) the steps Government have so far taken to persuade Provincial Governments to issue more bus licenses in order to reduce the pressure of passenger traffic on Railways and with what results, and

(b) whether or not the Government, in case of encouraging and developing passenger bus service, will take care to see that the Railways do not themselves enter into competition with the independent Road (Bus and Van) Transport Industries?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Provincial Motor Transport Controllers have been informed from time to time that subject to the availability of controlled chassis; to the relative priority of demands for special war purposes and for general goods transport, to the prior demand for replacement of worn out buses; and to the possibility of running the new buses on producer gas, controlled chassis should be released for extending bus services where most necessary to mitigate congestion in trains and buses. I have no reason to suppose that fresh permits are not being issued whenever vehicles are available.

(b) Government are anxious to discourage destructive competition between road and rail interests and are seeking to bring about mutually beneficial co-operation between the two.

CHANGE IN TIMINGS OF TRAINS ON MALAKWAL BHERA BRANCH LINE

556. *Khan Bahadur Shaikh Fazl-i-Haq Piracha: (a) Is the Honourable Member for Railways aware that the timings for the running of trains on Malakwal Bhera Branch Line (North Western Railway) have been changed since October 1, 1944? What were the reasons for the change? Was that done in the interest of the travelling public?

(b) Do Government realise that the timings of the trains on Malakwal Bhera Branch Line, in force before the 1st of October last were suitable for convenient and safe journey of the passengers from Bhera and Miani Railway stations; and

that the recent changes of train times cause trouble and inconvenience and hardship to the travelling public and are not conducive to their safety, especially as passengers from Bhera and Miami Railway stations cannot get the connecting day time trains for going to Lalamusa and from there to Lahore, Rawalpindi and Peshawar sides?

(c) Is it a fact that passengers from Bhera and Miami Railway stations, can go from Malakwal to Lalamusa and from there to Lahore, Rawalpindi and Peshawar sides, by only one night train (59 Up), but that the first and second class and particularly the female passengers of all classes do not get accommodation in trains at Lalamusa and have, therefore, to pass the whole night there in discomfort to get the next morning train?

(d) If the replies to (a) to (c) above be in the affirmative, will Government please bring the necessary changes in the Railway Time Table for Malakwal Bhera Branch Line trains, in order to provide a convenient train connection for passengers to enable them to undertake day time journey to Lahore, Rawalpindi and Peshawar sides as was provided in the Time Table in force before the 1st of October, last? If the reply to any of the questions be in the negative, will Government please get local enquiries made and bring about the changes in train times to suit the convenience and safety of the travelling public?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: With your permission, Sir, I propose to reply to questions Nos 556 and 557 together.

I have called for information from the N W Railway Administration and will lay a reply on the table of the House in due course.

CHANGE IN TIMINGS OF TRAINS ON MALAKWAL BHERA BRANCH LINE

†557. ***Khan Bahadur Shaikh Fazl-i-Haq Furacha:** (a) Is the Honourable Member for Railways aware of the fact that the municipal committee of Bhera, by a resolution of the committee, has made representations to the Chief Operating Superintendent, North Western Railway, Lahore and to his Divisional Officers at Rawalpindi, regarding the difficulties and inconveniences of the passengers created by the new changed time table on the Malakwal Bhera Branch Line, and has requested to change the time table in the interest of the passengers, and have also made certain suggestions for their consideration?

(b) Is it also a fact that a representation to the same effect was made to Mr B Moody, Chief Operating Superintendent, North Western Railway, Lahore, by a Member of this House? If so, had Mr Moody, the Chief Operating Superintendent, sent a reply to the Member, regarding the action he had taken or proposed to take in the matter? If so, will the Honourable Member kindly lay on the table of the House a copy of the reply sent by Mr Moody?

(c) Will the Honourable Member please state what action, if any, has so far been taken by the Railway Department on the representations and suggestions made with regard to the change of Railway timings on Bhera Malakwal Branch Line and when can the changes in the time table be expected?

RECRUITMENT AND TRAINING OF ENGINEERING SUPERVISORS AND WIRELESS OPERATORS

558. ***Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani:** Will the Secretary for Posts and Air be pleased to state

(a) the rules for recruitment of Engineering Supervisors and Wireless Operators as they stand after modification, for the recruitment of the minority community candidates,

(b) the number of training centre or centres in the country for training candidates for services mentioned in (a) above, if so, are they run by Government or some subsidy or contribution is given to them by the Government,

(c) if the candidates for the two above mentioned posts are further trained after recruitment; if so, where and how,

(d) if Muslim candidates are recruited without any previous telegraph training with reference to (b) of starred question No 23, asked on the 1st November, 1944;

†For answer to this question, see answer to question No 556

(e) in view of the difficulty experienced in not securing Muslim candidates for recruitment as Telegraphists as stated in reply to starred question No 26 asked on the 1st November, 1944, and in view of the fact that the percentage of Muslims in the cadre of Telegraphists is low, whether Government propose to revise the rules in a way to enable Muslim candidates of other circles to be taken in as is the case with Anglo-Indian candidates, and

(f) if it is a fact that no domicile certificate is required for relations and the sons of Post and Telegraph employees in any circle whatsoever in British India, if so, what the contents of the rules concerned are?

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: (a) A copy of the rules, as last printed in June 1943, is placed on the table of the House. The following modifications are to be embodied in these rules when they are next printed —

(1) The condition regarding minimum marks for qualifying in the recruitment examination, prescribed in rule 1 of Appendix A, will be deleted,

(2) To secure the full quota of candidates of minority communities, resort may, if necessary be had to recruitment by selection (without examination) of candidates possessing the minimum educational qualifications

Recruitment of Wireless Operators is also made by selection from among candidates previously trained in wireless telegraphy, as provided in rule 483, Part III of Posts and Telegraphs Manual, Volume IV, a copy of which is placed in the Library of the House.

(b) Candidates for posts of Engineering Supervisors are not required to receive any training before recruitment. This is also the case with candidates for posts of Wireless Operators recruited on the results of the competitive examination. Candidates to be eligible for recruitment as Wireless Operators under rule 483, Part III, already referred to in the reply to part (a), must be previously trained in wireless telegraphy and be competent as Wireless Operators. This training is imparted by certain private institutions in the country the number of which is not definitely known. No subsidy or contribution is given to any institution by Government.

(c) Candidates selected from the results of the recruitment examination for appointment as Engineering Supervisors and Wireless Operators are trained in the Government training class attached to the office of the Electrical Engineer-in-Chief, Posts and Telegraphs Department at Jubulpore. Practical training is given to these candidates in the Postal Circles. Similar is the case with Wireless Operators recruited under rule 483, Part III, already referred to, but theoretical training is given to them for a comparatively short period.

(d) The Honourable Member evidently refers to the recruitment of Wireless Operators under rule 483, Part III. No Muslim without previous training in Wireless telegraphy are recruited under that rule.

(e) Presumably the starred question to which reference is made is not No 23, but No 23, to which a reply was given on 1st November, 1944. The low percentage of Muslims in the strength of the Telegraphists' cadre is due to the fact that formerly recruitment was made mainly from certain approved institutions and the result was a preponderance of Anglo-Indians in this Branch of the Service. Since the introduction of the new recruitment rules of 1937, however, Muslims are securing appointment in the posts reserved for them subject to the availability of qualified candidates of the community. Relaxation of the domicile condition has been approved by Government for Anglo-Indians only in view of the fact that that community is concentrated in a few centres. Since such a factor does not prevail in respect of Muslims, Government do not consider it necessary to relax the domicile conditions for them. Government do not propose to revise the rules as they are of opinion that the recent suspension of the competitive examination and recruitment from the open market should enable the Department to secure the Muslim quota.

(f) The position is not as stated. The relevant rule on the subject allows the sons and daughters of Departmental employees to appear in the examination in the particular recruiting unit in which the employee is serving, without

production of a domicile certificate. In this connection, the Honourable member's attention is invited to exception (1) below rule 5(a) of Appendix 14 of Posts and Telegraphs Manual, Volume IV

DEPARTMENT OF POSTS AND AIR RESOLUTION

POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS

New Delhi, the 8th June, 1943

No. S-116/1/42.—The following rules are prescribed for the recruitment and training of candidates for the cadres of Engineering Supervisors, Carrier Attendants and Wireless Operators in the Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department—

SECTION A—ENGINEERING SUPERVISORS

PART I—METHODS OF RECRUITMENT

- 1 The rules in this section may be called the Engineering Supervisors Recruitment Rules
- 2 For the purposes of these Rules—
 - (a) "Director General" means the Director General of Posts and Telegraphs
 - (b) "Departmental candidate" means—
 - (i) a Telegraphist of the Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department, or
 - (ii) a Telephone Inspector including one who is employed as a carrier or repeater attendant, a Telephone Operator, or a Mistry who has passed the Matriculation examination.
 - (c) "Outside candidate" means a candidate other than a "departmental candidate". Members of the staff of the department other than those mentioned above are "Outside candidates".

(d) "Service" means the Engineering Supervisors of the Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department

3 (a) The Service shall be recruited by means of a competitive examination from the following sources—

- (i) By direct recruitment in accordance with Part II of these Rules
- (ii) By recruitment of departmental candidates in accordance with Part III of these

Rules

(b) The Service will be liable for field service in times of war or national emergency within the limits of His Majesty's Indian Territories

4 *Percentage of vacancies*—(i) 25 per cent of the vacancies will be filled by departmental candidates and the remaining 75 per cent by outside candidates

(ii) If the number of departmental candidates who qualify is less than the number of vacancies available for such candidates the remaining vacancies will be added to the vacancies available for outside candidates who have qualified in the examination

5 *Place and date of examination*—A competitive examination for admission to the Service shall be held in India at such time and places as the Director General may prescribe by notice issued through the Heads of Circles. Every such notice will when possible, announce the number of the vacancies to be filled on the result of the examination. Outside candidates must attend at their own expense

6 *Subjects and marks*—Examinations under these Rules shall be conducted by the Director General in the manner prescribed in the regulations which form Appendix A to these Rules

7 *Fees*—Candidates must pay the prescribed fees (see Appendix B). No claim for a refund of any of these fees will be entertained nor can they be held in reserve for subsequent examinations or selections

8 *Re-examination of answer papers*—No application from any candidate to have his answer papers re-examined will be considered

PART II—DIRECT RECRUITMENT

9 *Applications*—(i) A candidate must apply to be admitted to the examination before such date, in such manner and in such form as the Director General, Posts and Telegraphs may prescribe

(ii) If a candidate is in the permanent service of Government he shall apply for admission to the examination through the proper official channel to the Head of the Circle in which his office is situated

(iii) If a candidate is not in Government service or is employed in Government service in a temporary capacity at the time that he submits his application he shall apply to the Head of the Circle in which his parents reside at the time of submitting his application or have resided for a period of not less than three years or in which the candidate himself

*The submission of applications by persons in Government service is further governed by the Government Servants' Applications for Posts (Central Services) - Rule published with Government of India Home Department (Railway Services) No. F 510-31-Posts, dated the 27th June 1934, as amended from time to time, and corresponding rules made by Provincial Governments

resided, otherwise than as a student, for a like period. A Government servant who is employed in a temporary capacity should, however, before submitting his application obtain in writing the permission of the Head of the office or department in which he is employed and attach it to the application.

A list of the Circles is given in Appendix C.

10 *Status*—A candidate must be a male and either—

(a) a British subject of Indian domicile, or

(b) a British subject of Indian descent evacuated from any Empire country, or

(c) a ruler or a subject of an Indian State or a native of a tribal area or territory adjacent to India, provided that a ruler or a subject of a State in India cannot be appointed unless he has obtained a declaration under sub-section (1) of section 262 of the Government of India Act, 1935,

and must be in all respects suitable for appointment to that service.

11 *Age*—A candidate must have attained the age of 17, and must not have attained the age of 24, on the first day of January of the year in which the examination is held.

12 *Educational qualifications*—A candidate must—

(i) have passed sections A and B of the Associate Membership examination of the Institution of Engineers (India) or any other educational qualifications recognised by that Institution as exempting from passing these sections, *vide* Appendix D, or

(ii) have obtained an Engineering degree of one of the Universities mentioned in Appendix E under the conditions prescribed in that Appendix, or

(iii) have passed the Associateship examination of the City and Guilds Institute (Imperial College of Science and Technology, South Kensington) in Civil Engineering, or

(iv) have obtained a diploma of Faraday House, London, or

(v) have passed the Associate examination of the Bengal Engineering College in Mechanical Engineering, or

(vi) have passed the Cambridge School certificate examination, Oxford School certificate examination or London Matriculation examination, or

(vii) have passed the Intermediate Science examination of an Indian University, or

(viii) have passed the Intermediate Arts examination with physics of an Indian University, or

(ix) have obtained one of the diplomas in Engineering described in Appendix F.

13 *Recommendations*—No recommendations except those invited in the form of application, will be taken into consideration. Any attempt on the part of a candidate to obtain support for his application by other means will disqualify him for admission.

14 *Acceptance or rejection of application*—

(i) Heads of Circles will examine the applications of outside candidates and if they find that any candidate does not fulfil the conditions laid down in rules 9 to 13 above, will reject his application.

(ii) Outside candidates employed in the Department will be selected by the Head of the Circle after a scrutiny of their confidential records. The Head of the circle will have full discretion to reject the application of a candidate whose record is unsatisfactory.

(iii) Heads of Circles will give candidates, whose applications are rejected intimation of the fact.

15 *Reserved Vacancies*—Vacancies in the service which are filled otherwise than by departmental candidates shall be apportioned between the various communities in India in accordance with the provisions of Government of India (Home Department) Resolution No. F 14/17-B/33-Evts. dated the 4th July 1934, and the supplementary instructions connected therewith. Accordingly—

(i) 33½ per cent will be reserved for the redress of communal inequalities as indicated below—

(a) 25 per cent for Muslims

(b) 8½ per cent for other minority communities

(ii) The remaining vacancies, together with any reserved vacancies for which eligible candidates are not available, will be offered to candidates in order of merit at the examination subject to the condition that some of these vacancies may, in order to secure fair representation for the members of the scheduled castes, be filled by nomination of eligible candidates from these.

(iii) No candidate will be eligible for appointment who fails to attain a specified minimum standard in the examination.

16 *Medical examination*—A candidate must be in good mental and bodily health, and free from any physical defect likely to interfere with the discharge of his duties as an officer of the Service. A candidate who as a result of the medical examination prescribed in Appendix G is found not to satisfy those requirements will not be appointed. Only candidates who are selected for training will be physically examined.

17 *Agreement and deposit*—(i) A successful candidate will be required before the commencement of his training to sign in the form laid down in Appendix H a declaration to serve Government for a period of 5 years from the date of his appointment as Engineering Supervisor and to deposit a sum of Rs. 50 as security for the due fulfilment of the terms of the declaration.

(ii) If the candidate has not completed 18 years of age prior to the commencement of his training the declaration must also be signed by his father or legal guardian. As soon as

the candidate has attained majority, he will be required to sign a separate declaration himself, the former one being cancelled

(iii) The amount of security must be deposited in a Post Office Savings Bank and the security deposit account pledged to the Senior Deputy Director General, Posts and Telegraphs, in accordance with the Savings Bank rules. The pass book must be submitted to the Electrical Engineer in Chief who will forward the documents to the Senior Deputy Director General for safe custody.

(iv) The refund of the security deposit will be authorised after the candidate has completed 5 years of service as Engineering Supervisor.

PART III—RECRUITMENT OF DEPARTMENTAL CANDIDATES

18 *Eligibility*—(i) Departmental candidates who have not more than 7 years' permanent service in their respective grades on the 1st of January of the year in which the examination is held will be eligible to appear for the competitive examination.

(ii) The maximum limit of 7 years' service may be relaxed by the Director General at his discretion in individual cases.

N.B.—Probationers will be eligible to appear in the competitive examination as departmental candidates subject to the condition that they are confirmed before the date of the examination.

19 *Applications and selection of candidates*—Candidates must fill in the prescribed application form and submit it to the Head of the Circle concerned. Heads of Circles will select suitable candidates from the applicants after a scrutiny of their confidential records. They will have full discretion to reject the application of a candidate whose record is unsatisfactory. Candidates, whose applications are rejected will be duly informed.

20 *Filling of vacancies*—Vacancies available for departmental candidates will be filled by successful candidates strictly according to merit in the examination.

21 *Medical examination*—Selected departmental candidates, except general service telegraphists, will be required to pass the physical examination prescribed in rule 16.

PART IV—TRAINING

N.B.—The following course of training may be modified by the Director-General if circumstances render this desirable.

22 *Duration*—All selected candidates will be required to undergo a course of training extending over 15 months, divided as follows except that departmental telegraphists will be exempted from the course of training referred to at II (ii) below—

I *In the departmental training class*—

(i) 10 months theoretical training concluded by an examination

(ii) 1 month preparing a practical project

II *In the Telegraph Workshop*—

(i) 3 months training concluded by a practical examination

(ii) 1 month in a departmental telegraph office for instruction in signal office routine

23 *Syllabus of examination after training*—The syllabus of the examination to be held at the end of the course of training in the departmental training class will comprise the following subjects—

1 Signalling (in accordance with rule 381 of Posts and Telegraphs Manual, Volume IV), except that signalling on both open and closed circuits should be in manuscript and the standard rate of signalling should be as given below—

		Marks
(a)	Morse	16 words per minute
(b)	Baudot signalling	15 words per minute
(c)	Baudot Keyboard Perforator	15 words per minute
(d)	Tape reading	8 words per minute
2	Advanced course in practical mathematics	100
3	Electricity and magnetism and elementary electro-technology	100
4	Electro-technology and prime movers	100
5	Telegraphy—	
	(a) Elementary telegraph and testing of lines and cables	100
	(b) Advanced telegraphy	100
6	Telephony—	
	(a) Elementary telephony	100
	(b) Advanced telephony	100
7	(a) Line construction (including surveying and levelling)	200
	(b) Applied mechanics and mechanism	50
	(c) Geometrical drawing	50
	Total	1,100

The project referred to in rule 22 I (ii) will carry 350 marks and the examination at the end of the workshop course 150 marks, making 1,600 marks in all.

24 *Qualifying marks*—The minimum qualifying standards for the examination will be 40 per cent of marks in each subject.

25 *Removal of unsuitable candidates*—Any candidate who is found unsuitable at any stage or fails to secure the minimum qualifying marks at any of the examinations will be liable to immediate removal from the class and will not be allowed to sit again for the entrance examination referred to in rule 5

26 *Allowances during training*—During the period of training, direct recruits will receive an allowance of Rs 40 per mensem. Departmental candidates will continue to draw their pay in their respective scales plus the usual house rent allowance, if any, or Rs 40 per mensem, whichever is greater

Officials of the Posts and Telegraphs Department other than departmental candidates defined in rule 2(b) will draw the allowance granted to outside candidates, or the pay last drawn by them before joining the training class, whichever is less

PART V—APPOINTMENT AND EMOLUMENTS

27 *Appointment*—(a) On successful completion of the course of training, a candidate will be appointed as an Engineering Supervisor on probation for one year subject to the existence of vacancies in that grade. Employment as an Engineering Supervisor is not however guaranteed on the completion of the course of training

(b) If the work or conduct of an Engineering Supervisor on probation is unsatisfactory or shows that he is unlikely to become efficient he may be discharged forthwith

(c) On the conclusion of his period of probation, if his work or conduct has been found to be unsatisfactory he may either be discharged from service or his period of probation may be extended for such further period as may be considered necessary

28 *Seniority*—For the purpose of determining the relative seniority in the cadre of Engineering Supervisors of those appointed at any one time, there will be two groups, viz, (1) departmental candidates and other members of the staff of the Department who were selected as outside candidates and (2) other outside candidates. Seniority in each group will be determined according to the total marks obtained by each at the final examination held on completion of training at the departmental training class, but all candidates selected from group (1) will be given seniority over those in group (2) irrespective of the number of marks obtained in the examination. All the Engineering Supervisors appointed after one examination will rank senior to those appointed after a later examination. This seniority will not affect prejudicially the pay of departmental candidates which will be fixed according to rule 29

29 *Pay and Allowances*—(a) In the case of direct recruits and the departmental candidates who are eligible for the revised rates of pay the scale of pay for the cadre of Engineering Supervisors will be Rs 80—5—120—10—240

(b) Departmental telegraphists who were in service on the 18th April, 1927 and who are eligible for promotion to the rank of Engineering Supervisors will, on such promotion, be brought on to the old scale of Rs 80—5—100—10—250—20—350 (with an efficiency bar at the stage of Rs 250) under Fundamental Rule 22 (a) (i) and will get a special pay of Rs 40 subject to a maximum of pay and special pay of Rs 350

(c) Departmental telegraphists who entered the Department after the 18th April 1927 and other departmental candidates who are entitled to the old rates of pay will be brought on to the scale of Rs 120—5—140—10—200—20—350 (with an efficiency bar at the stage of Rs 200) under the Fundamental Rules and will not get any special pay

30 *Signalling test*—Engineering Supervisors of both classes recruited under these rules will be required during the first five years of their service to pass annually a signalling test in open and closed circuit similar to that prescribed in rule 23 (1). An Engineering Supervisor who does not pass this test will not be granted the annual increment of pay

SECTION B—CARRIER ATTENDANTS

1 The rules in this section may be called the Carrier Attendant Recruitment (by competition) Rules

2 *Scope of service*—Carrier Attendants belong to an all-India cadre and are liable for services anywhere in India. They are also liable for field service in times of war or national emergency within the limits of His Majesty's Indian territories. The posts are superior and pensionable and the scale of pay is Rs 60—4—100—5—130. The carrier attendants permanently appointed will be eligible for promotion to a selection grade of Rs 130—5—190 under conditions that will be prescribed hereafter

3 *Source of recruitment*—The recruitment will be made from volunteers among the candidates, who qualify in the competitive examination for selection of candidates for training as Engineering Supervisors mentioned in Section A, Part I, but who are not selected for that service

4 *Reserved vacancies*—The vacancies will be filled in the manner prescribed in rule 4 of Section C

5 *Medical Examination*—Selected candidates will be required to produce a certificate of fitness from a Medical Board at their own expense before they are appointed for training as Carrier Attendants

6 *Agreement and deposit*—Before the commencement of his training a selected candidate will be required to sign a declaration in the form laid down in Appendix H to serve Government for a period of two years on the conditions specified in rule 17 of Section A, except that the security deposit amount must be pledged to the Head of the Circle concerned to whom the documents will be sent by the Electrical Engineer in Chief

7 *Training*.—The selected candidates will be required to undergo a course of theoretical and practical training for a period not exceeding one year. They will be required to pass a test on the conclusion of the theoretical training.

8 *Removal of unsuitable candidates*.—Any candidate who is found unsuitable at any stage or fails to secure the minimum qualifying marks at the tests will be liable to immediate removal.

9 *Allowance during training*.—During the period of training, candidates will receive pay or allowance as shown below

- | | |
|--|---|
| (a) Outside candidate | Allowance at Rs. 30 per mensem |
| (b) Officials of the Posts and Telegraphs Department other than departmental candidate as defined in rule 2 (b) in Section A | Pay equal to the allowance mentioned at (a) or to pay last drawn by him before joining class whichever is less. |
| (c) Departmental officials as defined in rule 2(b) of Section A | Pay in his own scale plus the usual house rent allowance if any, or Rs. 30 per mensem whichever is greater |

10 *Appointment*.—(1) On qualifying in the passing-out test referred to in rule 7 and on completion of the practical course of training, candidates will if reported on as fit to carry out the duties of Carrier Attendants be appointed as carrier attendants.

11 *Seniority*.—The procedure laid down in rule 28 of Section A will be followed.

SECTION C—WIRELESS OPERATORS

1 The rules in this section may be called the Wireless Operators Recruitment (by competition) Rules.

2 *Scope of service*.—Wireless Operators belong to an all India cadre and are liable for service anywhere in India. They are also liable for field service in times of war or national emergency within the limits of His Majesty's Indian territories. The posts are superior and pensionable and the scale of pay is Rs. 60—5—150.

3 *Source of recruitment*.—The recruitment will be made from volunteers among the candidates who qualify in the competitive examination for selection of candidates for training as Engineering Supervisors mentioned in Section A Part I, but who are not selected for that service.

4 *Reservation of vacancies*.—Vacancies in the service shall be apportioned between the various communities in India in accordance with the provisions of Government of India (Home Department) Resolution No. F-14/17 B/33-Ests., dated the 4th July 1934, and the supplementary instructions connected therewith. Accordingly—

(i) 33½ per cent will be reserved for the redress of communal inequalities as indicated below—

- (a) 25 per cent for Muslims
- (b) 8½ per cent for other minority communities
- (ii) The remaining vacancies, together with any reserved vacancies for which eligible candidates are not available, will be offered to candidates in order of merit at the examination, subject to the condition that some of these vacancies may, in order to secure fair representation for the Scheduled castes be filled by nomination of eligible candidates from these.

5 *Medical examination*.—Selected candidates will be required to produce a certificate of fitness from a Medical Board at their own expense before they are appointed for training as Wireless Operators.

6 *Agreement and deposit*.—Before the commencement of his training a selected candidate will be required to sign a declaration in the form laid down in Appendix H to serve Government for a period of five years on the conditions specified in rule 17 of Section A, except that the security deposit account must be pledged to the Head of the Circle concerned to whom the documents will be sent by the Electrical Engineer in Chief.

7 *Training*.—The selected candidates will be required to undergo a course of training not exceeding one year in the Wireless Training Class and a further three months practical training at a Wireless Station. At the end of the first six months of training they will be required to qualify at a preliminary test and at the end of the training in the class, a passing-out test. Those who qualify will then be posted to a Wireless Station for practical training. Candidates who qualify before the end of one year in the class will be posted to a Wireless Station for practical training without remaining in the class for the whole year.

8 *Removal of unsuitable candidates*.—Any candidate who is found unsuitable at any stage or fails to secure the minimum qualifying marks at either of the tests will be liable to immediate removal.

9 *Allowance during training*.—During the period of training, candidates will receive pay or allowance as shown below

- | | |
|---|--|
| (a) Outside candidate | Allowance at Rs. 30 per mensem |
| (b) Officials of the Posts and Telegraphs Department other than departmental candidate as defined in rule 2(b) in Section A | Pay equal to the allowance mentioned at (a) or to pay last drawn by him before joining class whichever is less |
| (c) Departmental official as defined in rule 2(b) of Section A | Pay in his own scale plus the usual house rent allowance, if any, or Rs. 30 per mensem whichever is greater. |

10 *Appointment*—(1) On qualifying in the passing out test and on completion of the practical course of training at a Wireless Station, candidates will, if reported on as fit to carry out the duties of Wireless Operator, be appointed as Wireless Operators on probation for one year, as far as vacancies are available

(2) On satisfactory completion of the period of probation candidates will be confirmed as wireless Operators

11 *Seniority*.—The procedure laid down in rule 23 of Section A should be followed

12 *Aircraft duties*.—Wireless Operators recruited to the Department on or after the 1st January 1940 and Wireless Supervisors and Deputy Assistant Engineers, Wireless, promoted from the ranks of such Wireless Operators, may be required to carry out duties on aircraft during flight

APPENDIX A

(Referred to in rule 6 in Section A)

The subjects of the examination will be—

	Marks.
(1) English (general knowledge)	200
(2) Geography (a general knowledge of the geography of the world and a detailed knowledge of the geography of India)	100
(3) Elementary physics and chemistry	150
(4) Practical mathematics (2 papers)—	
(a) Arithmetic, algebra, geometry, trigonometry and mensuration	250
(b) Mechanics (statics and dynamics) and graphics	150
	<u>850</u>

The minimum marks for qualifying will be 33 per cent in each paper for recruitment to the cadre of Engineering Supervisors and 25 per cent to those of Carrier Attendants and Wireless Operators

2 From the marks assigned to candidates in each subject such deduction will be made as may be considered necessary in order to secure that no credit is allowed for merely superficial knowledge

3 If a candidate's handwriting is not easily legible, a deduction will be made on this account from the total marks otherwise accruing to him

4 Credit will be given for good English in all subjects of the examination and not only in subjects which are specially devoted to English

APPENDIX B

(Referred to in rule 7 in Section A)

Candidates must pay the following fees —

	Outside candidates Rs	Departmental candidates Rs.
Application fee to be paid with the application form	5	5
Examination fee to be paid on selection for admission to the written examination	25	10
Medical fee to be paid before the medical examination	16	16
		(Except in the case of General Service Telegraphists.)

2 The application and examination fees must be paid into a post office by money order will not be accepted Fees remitted

3 The post office receipt for the application fee must be submitted with the application form

4 The examination fee must be paid on receipt of a written order from the Head of the Circle and the post office receipt therefor produced before the examination is held

5 The Medical fee must be paid in cash to the Medical Board on receipt of a written order from the Head of the Circle and before the medical examination

APPENDIX C

(Referred to in rule 9 in Section A)

Name of Circle	Official designation of officer in charge	Headquarters
Bengal and Assam	Postmaster-General	Calcutta
Bihar and Orissa		Patna
Bombay		Bombay
Central		Nagpur
Madras		Madras
Punjab and N. W. F.	Director of Posts and Telegraphs	Lahore
United Provinces		Lucknow
Sind and Baluchistan		Karachi.

APPENDIX D

List of Examinations recognised by the Institution of Engineers (India) as exempting from Sections "A" and "B" of the Associate Membership Examination

[Referred to in rule 12 (i) in Section A]

Institution of Civil Engineers—Sections A and B of the Associate Membership Examination.

Institution of Mechanical Engineers—Sections A and B of the Associate Membership Examination

Institution of Electrical Engineers—The Associate Membership Examination

Oxford—B A with Honours in Engineering Science, Final Honours School

Cambridge—B A (Honours) Mechanical Sciences Tripos

St. Andrews—B Sc in Engineering.

Glasgow—B Sc in Engineering

Edinburgh—B Sc in Engineering

Dublin—B A I (Ordinary or with Honours in Engineering)

McGill University (Montreal)—B Sc in "Civil" or "Mechanical" or "Electrical" or "Metallurgical" or "Mining" Engineering (Honours or Ordinary Degree)

Durham—B Sc, in "Civil" or "Mechanical" or "Electrical" Engineering, or in "Naval Architecture" (Honours or Ordinary Degree)

London—B Sc, in (External and Internal Degree) Engineering not including the B Sc, Engineering (Mining) or the B Sc, in Engineering (Metallurgy) (Honours or Ordinary Degree)

Victoria University (Manchester)—B Sc Tech (Ordinary Course, Division I) in Electrical Engineering,

B Sc Tech (Ordinary Course, Division II) in Electrical Engineering;

B Sc Tech (Higher Course, Honours Division or Ordinary Course, Division I) in Municipal Engineering,

B Sc Tech (Ordinary Course, Division I) in Mechanical Engineering;

B Sc in Engineering (Honours degree, or Ordinary degree from 1925 onwards);

B Sc Tech, in "Mechanical" or "Electrical" Engineering (Honours Division in the Final Examination)

Birmingham—B Sc in "Civil" or "Mechanical" or "Electrical" Engineering (Honours or Ordinary degree)

Liverpool—B Eng in "Civil" or "Mechanical" or "Marine" or "Electrical" Engineering, or "Naval Architecture" (Honours or Ordinary degree)

Leeds—B Sc in "Civil" or "Mechanical" or "Electrical" Engineering (Honours or Ordinary degree)

Sheffield—B Eng in "Civil" or "Mechanical" or "Electrical" Engineering (Honours degree or Ordinary degree with a First Class in the Final Examination) A first class in the Final Examination will not be required in the cases of degrees obtained in or after June 1930

Bristol—B Sc in "Civil" or "Mechanical" or "Electrical" Engineering (Honours or Ordinary degree)

Wales—B Sc in "Civil" or "Mechanical" or "Electrical" Engineering

National University of Ireland—B E

Queen's University (Belfast)—B Sc in Engineering,

Sydney—B E in "Civil" or in "Mechanical" and "Electrical" Engineering

Melbourne—B C E, B Mech E or B E E

New Zealand—B E in "Civil", or "Mechanical" or "Electrical" Engineering

Adelaide—B E in "Civil", "Mechanical" or "Electrical" Engineering

Queensland—B E in "Civil" or in "Mechanical" and "Electrical" Engineering

Western Australia—B E

South Africa—B Sc in Engineering (until 1921)

Cape Town—B Sc in Engineering

Witwatersrand—B Sc in "Civil" or "Mechanical" and "Electrical" Engineering

Calcutta—B E Examination in Civil or Mechanical or Electrical Engineering

Bombay—B E Examination

Madras—B E Examination

Banars Hindu University—B Sc Examination in Engineering

Patna—B C E

Rangoon—B Sc in Engineering from 1932

Mysore—B E in Civil, Mechanical or Electrical Engineering

Punjab—B Sc in Engineering

Diplomas in Engineering—

City and Guilds (Engineering) College, Kensington.

University College, London.

King's College, London

City and Guilds of London Institute, Technical College, Finsbury—Diploma or Higher Certificate (three years' course) if taken by Matriculated Students or Students who have passed the Institution Studentship Examination or its recognised equivalent

Royal Technical College, Glasgow—Final Diploma Examination in Mechanical or Electrical Engineering provided an approved Matriculation Examination has been passed before beginning the course

Thomason Civil Engineering College, Roorkee—Assistant Engineer's Certificate
Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore—Certificate in Electrical Technology or in Electrical Communication Engineering

Manchester—Certificate in Technology, Mechanical or Electrical Engineering
Panjab College of Engineering and Technology (formerly MacLagan Engineering College), Moghalpura—

"A" Class Diploma in the first division (65 per cent, or more marks) and in the Honours Division (80 per cent or more marks) in (i) Mechanical Engineering and (ii) Electrical Engineering from 1935

Heriot-Watt College, Edinburgh—Associateship in Electrical Engineering

Naval Officers—Examination which qualifies as Lieutenant (E)

Royal Naval College, Greenwich—Professional Certificate for Constructors

APPENDIX E

List of University degrees which will be recognised for admission to the examination

[Referred to in rule 12 (u) in Section A]

Cambridge—Ordinary degree B A in Engineering provided the graduate has passed in the principal subjects, Engineering I, Engineering II and Engineering III

Glasgow—B Sc in Naval Architecture (Honours or Ordinary degree)

Durham—B Sc in Marine Engineering

London—B Sc Ordinary or with Honours [not including the B Sc in Engineering (Mining) or the B Sc in Engineering (Metallurgy)]

Aberdeen—B Sc in Engineering (Honours or Ordinary degree)

Note—The above degrees will be accepted only if taken after three years' study and the passing of the regular examinations in the several Universities. The conditions as to three years' study will not, however, apply to Indians who, having taken an Indian degree, which exempts them from part of the University course shall have taken one of the above degrees in less than three years in accordance with the regulations of the University concerned

APPENDIX F

[Referred to in rule 12 (ix) in Section A]

Particulars of diploma	Name of Institution granting the diploma
(a) Electrical Engineers	Victoria Jubilee Technical Institute, Bombay.
(b) Mechanical and Electrical Engineering	Technical College, Dayalbagh, Agra College of Engineering, Poona, Nadarshaw, Edulji Dinshaw Civil Engineering College, Karachi. Technical Institute, Insein
(c) L. E. E. or L. M. E. or L. A. E.	Government School of Technology, Madras or Technological Diplomas' Examination Board, Madras
(d) Overseer	Ahsanullah School of Engineering, Dacca, Thomason Civil Engineering College, Roorkee
(e) Mechanical Engineering	Technical College, Dayalbagh Agra.
(f) Civil Engineering	Technical Institute, Insein Orissa School of Engineering
(g) Mechanical and Electrical Engineering (specialised in Mechanical or Electrical Engineering) (Grade A)	Government Technical Institute, Gorakhpur, U. P. Government Technical Institute, Lucknow.
(h) Subordinate Civil Engineering	Bihar College of Engineering, Patna
(i) Civil Mechanical or Automobile Engineering	Government Engineering School, Nagpur
(j) Mechanical, Electrical or Civil Engineering.	Kala-Bhavan Technical Institute, Baroda.
(k) 'A' class Diploma or 'B' class certificate	MacLagan Engineering College, Moghalpura, Lahore
(l) Mechanical and Electrical Engineering	College of Engineering and Technology, Jadavpur, Bengal
(m) Electrical Technology	Nowrojee Wadia College, Poona
(n) Electro Mechanics	Craig Technical Institute, Lahore.
(o) B. E. (Mechanical)	Osmania University, Hyderabad

APPENDIX G

[Referred to in rule 16 in Section A]

Each candidate should be examined for physical fitness by a Medical Board who should be informed that a good constitution and active habits are essential qualifications for the post for which the person has been selected that, if appointed, his future duties will render him liable to considerable exposure at all seasons of the year anywhere in India and that he should be capable of riding 20 to 25 miles daily for continuous periods. The medical Board should be asked clearly to state whether they consider the person examined capable of performing such duties

APPENDIX H

(Referred to in rule 17 in Section A and rule 6 in Sections B and C)

Form of Declaration for candidates to be trained as Engineering Supervisors, Carrier Attendants and Wireless Operators

I, _____ son of _____, having been admitted on the _____ day of _____ 194____, for technical training as a candidate for employment in the grade of Engineering Supervisors/Carrier Attendants/Wireless Operators in the Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department hereby, of my own free will (and with the consent of my father/guardian _____ of _____ who has signed below in token of his agreement and acknowledgment on my behalf), declare and agree as follows —

(1) I will undergo the full course of training extending over $\frac{15}{15}$ months as prescribed

or for such period as may be prescribed by a competent authority,

(2) I accept the terms and conditions of my training and of my future service on probation in and of the service generally in the grade of Engineering Supervisors/Carrier Attendants/Wireless Operators in the Department as laid down at present or as may be laid down from time to time,

(3) I will after the successful completion of my training serve the Department as an Engineering Supervisor/Carrier Attendant/Wireless Operator for $\frac{five}{five}$ years from the date

of my appointment in the grade of Engineering Supervisors/Carrier Attendants/Wireless Operators and during that period I shall not sever my connection with the Department unless I first obtain the consent of the competent authority,

(4) I understand that my appointment in the said grade shall be on a temporary basis and that I shall be liable to have my service terminated at any time,

(5) The sum of Rs. 50 deposited by me will remain with Government as security for the due fulfilment of the above conditions,

(6) In case of my removal from the training class or service on account of misconduct or unsuitability and in case of a breach by me of conditions (1) and (3), except owing to ill health not brought on by my own carelessness or other cause not due to my fault or over which I have no control or my death, Government shall have full power to order forfeiture of the amount of security deposit,

(7) If upon completion of my training I am not appointed in the said grade of Engineering Supervisors/Carrier Attendants/Wireless Operators in the Department the said deposit of Rs. 50 shall then be returned, and if I am so appointed then the same shall be returned

at the termination of my first $\frac{five}{two}$ years of service

Date _____

Signature of candidate _____

I, _____ father/guardian of the said _____ confirm and agree to be bound by the above terms

Date _____

Signature of father/guardian
G V BEWOOR, Secy

*For minors only.

TRAINING IN DEPARTMENTAL WORK FOR DIRECTLY RECRUITED SUPERINTENDENTS OF POST OFFICES.

559. *Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: Will the Secretary for Posts and Air be pleased to state

(a) if it is essential in the interest of efficiency that the Superintendents of Post Offices recruited directly should have the same practical experience of the work of Postmasters and the detailed working knowledge of the Departmental rules and procedure for the supervision of work of officers under them as are required of the Inspectors, according to his reply to (b) of starred question No. 24 asked on the 1st November, 1944, and

(b) if an Inspector recruited directly can be trained in Departmental work and rules as a Superintendent of Post Offices recruited directly, if not, what the difficulty is?

Mr. W. H. Shoober (a) No, not to the same extent

(b) Does not arise in view of the reply to part (a)

INSPECTORS OF THE POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT

560. *Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: Will the Secretary for Posts and

Air please state

(a) the total number of Inspectors in all Circles of the Posts and Telegraphs Department in British India;

(b) the number of graduate and non-graduate Inspectors,

(c) if it is a fact that out of fifty per cent posts of Superintendents filled by direct recruitment, 15 per cent. posts are reserved for the relations of the employees of the Post and Telegraph Department? if so, what the rule on the subject is and how these 15 per cent posts are filled in, and

(d) whether it is a fact that communal proportion is applied to the remaining thirty-five per cent posts of Superintendents?

Mr. W. H. Shoober: (a) 667

(b) Graduates 288, Non-graduate 379

(c) The reply to the first part is in the negative The latter part does not arise

(d) The Communal proportion applies to all appointments of Superintendents by direct recruitment

MUSLIMS IN VARIOUS GRADES OF FOOD ESTABLISHMENT OF CERTAIN RAILWAYS

561. *Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state

(a) the strength of Muslims in the various grades of the Food Establishment of the Oudh and Tirhut Railway, East Indian Railway and the Bengal and Assam Railway, and

(b) the total number of Food Inspectors and the number of Muslims employed as such?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The information is not readily available and I regret I cannot undertake to collect it under the present conditions

INTERNMENT OF ALLAH BAKHSH KARAM ILAHI ZIA OF PESHAWAR.

562. *Mr. Abdul Qayyum: Will the Secretary for External Affairs please state:

(a) how long Allah Bakhsh Karam Ilahi Zia of Peshawar has been interned without trial and under what law,

(b) the nature of the charge or charges against him,

(c) the nature of the restrictions placed upon him,

(d) whether any allowance for his maintenance was sanctioned or paid, and

(e) whether the same has been stopped and why?

Sir Olaf Caroe: (a) Mr Allah Bakhsh Zia was arrested on 28th June, 1940, under rule 129 (1) (a) of the Defence of India Rules and after a period of about two months was restricted to Hoti Mardan Municipal limits and later to Peshawar Tehsil limit by the orders of the Central Government under rule 26 of the Defence of India Rules He has recently been allowed to proceed to Bombay for a month under the same restrictions

(b) The action was taken to prevent Mr Zia from acting in a manner prejudicial to the efficient prosecution of the war, and to the defence of British India.

(c) He was required to reside within the limits stated above to report himself to the authorities daily and not to associate or have contact with any person taking part in subversive activities or any person restricted under the Defence of India Rules and not to correspond with any person residing outside British India or associate with any foreigner.

(d) An allowance of Rs 30 per mensem was paid from 1st November, 1940, to 30th April, 1943.

(e) Yes, since he secured employment.

RELEASE OF RAW BUILDING MATERIAL FOR CIVILIANS' USE AT CHITTAGONG.

563. *Shahz Rafuddin Ahmad Siddique: Will the Honourable the Supply Member be pleased to state:

(a) if Government are aware that raw materials necessary for the construction of houses and their repairs from the forest area have been reserved for the military and that the civil people who absolutely depend on these materials for the construction of their huts and their repairs have now been absolutely stranded so much so that they are now unable to repair their huts; and

(b) whether Government be pleased to issue necessary instructions to the civil and military authorities at Chittagong to release at least some percentage of the raw materials to the civil people to enable them to repair their huts and dwelling houses?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: (a) It is not correct that all timber necessary for the construction of houses and their repair is taken by Government for military use. The total amount of timber which Government purchase for military use and essential civil purposes is limited by railway movement to about one million tons per annum for the whole of India and the total production of timber in India is at least double this figure.

(b) It is possible that in the Chittagong area the percentage of total timber production taken over for military use is higher than in other parts of India. Government have no precise information on the point.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

MAXIMUM WAR ALLOWANCE FOR POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS SUBORDINATE STAFF.

69. Mr. K. C. Neogy: (a) Is the Secretary for Posts and Air aware of the fact that the married gazetted officers are given a war allowance, subject to a minimum of Rs 50 per month, at the rate of 10 per cent of their pay not exceeding Rs 1,000 with effect from 1st July 1944? What is the minimum war allowance in the case of runners, postmen, second grade clerks and the Posts and Telegraph subordinate staff?

(b) Is it a fact that the gazetted officers drawing Rs 800 per month are in receipt of concessional supply of food stuffs from the Government like the non-gazetted officials?

Mr. W. H. Shoober: (a) The reply to the first part is in the affirmative. As regards the second part, subordinate staff have been granted dearness allowance at rates varying from Rs 9 to Rs 18 according to the pay drawn and the areas in which they are serving, or war allowance at 10 per cent of the pay drawn, whichever is greater. Officials of the P and T Department drawing pay up to Rs 39 are also in receipt of a Good Conduct pay of Rs 2 per mensem. Personnel enrolled in the P and T Defence of India Units in Bengal and Assam draw dearness allowance at the rates current when the mobilisation scheme was introduced. These range from Rs 5 to Rs 10, according to pay and area. In addition, such personnel receive free rations or a ration allowance.

(b) Yes, but only in Bengal, Delhi and Simla.

REDUCTION IN PAY OF CERTAIN CLERKS OF MYMENSINGH HEAD OFFICE

70. Mr. K. C. Neogy: (a) Will the Secretary for Posts and Air please state whether it is a fact that the 2nd grade clerks of the Mymensingh Head Office recruited from previously approved candidates for the old upper division clerical cadre, have been subjected to a permanent reduction of pay by Rs 9 per month with effect from 1st April 1935, and no protection from loss of pay under P R. 28 was extended to them?

(b) Is it a fact that the late Major J. B. Kindersley, I C S., Commissioner, Dacca Division and Mr. J. H. E. Cook, late Postmaster-General, Bengal, and Assam Circle, submitted a report to the effect that the cost of living in Mymensingh is equal to that of Dacca and in some respects, specially house-rent, exceeds that of Dacca?

(c) Is it a fact that on the basis of the above report, in order to equalise the scales of pay granted to Dacca employees, i.e., 'B' group scale of pay, Mymensingh has been re-classified as 'B' group from 'C' with effect from 1st October, 1939, and the ten second grade clerks have sustained a reduction of pay by one

rupee per month for the second time on a permanent basis while the benefit of Rs 5, being the difference of the minimum pay of B and C groups, is granted to other 2nd grade clerks working in Head Office and also in the office of the Superintendent of Post Offices, Mymensingh Division?

(d) Do the Government intend to grant these ten 2nd grade clerks, the increment of pay or allowance by Rs 5 per month on cancelling the orders of reduction of pay?

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: (a) to (d). The information asked for is given in the reply to starred question No 736 by Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi on the 8rd April, 1944

CLERICAL SCALES OF PAY IN MYMENSINGH HEAD OFFICE.

71. Mr. K. O. Neogy: (a) Is the Secretary for Posts and Air is aware that there are 3 clerical scales of pay in the same office, i.e., (i) Rs 40-5-140, (ii) Rs 40-4-80 and (iii) Rs 35-35-3-80, with interchangeable duties between each other?

(b) Is it a fact that the 2nd grade clerks holding the scale of pay of Rs 35-35-3-80, having higher academic qualifications, are doing more responsible work than other clerks on the higher scales of pay?

(c) Is it a fact that the 2nd grade clerks having 11 years substantive service to their credit are drawing Rs 61 per month, while the 1st grade clerks and lower division clerks with the same length of service are drawing Rs 80 and Rs 110 per month, respectively?

(d) Is it a fact that dearness allowance is granted to the 1st grade and 2nd grade clerks on same percentage basis of their pay?

(e) Do the Government propose to introduce the old rates of pay under the point-to-point system?

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: (a) Yes.

(b) This is a possibility in particular cases

(c) The facts are approximately as stated

(d) No

(e) No

HOUSE RENT AND COMPENSATORY ALLOWANCES FOR POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS STAFF IN CERTAIN DISTRICTS OF BENGAL.

72. Mr. K. O. Neogy: (a) Is the Secretary for Posts and Air aware that extreme difficulties are experienced by the staff in Mymensingh, Dacca, Tippera, Chittagong and in other districts, due to the paucity of suitable rented houses and high increase in cost of living?

(b) Do the Government propose to grant suitable house rent and compensatory allowances to the staff of these places as is granted to the Calcutta and Bombay staff?

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: (a) Difficulties of the kind indicated exist in varying degrees at different places all over India. Inconveniences of this nature caused by war conditions are unavoidable. Government do not consider that in the localities mentioned by the Honourable Member the difficulties are extreme.

(b) No. All classes of staff do not get compensatory and house rent allowances in Calcutta and Bombay. In some of the localities referred to by the Honourable Member, such allowances are already drawn by certain classes of staff.

REPORT OF MEETING OF POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS WORKERS AT MYMENSINGH AND TANGAIL.

73. Mr. K. O. Neogy: (a) Has the Secretary for Posts and Air received the reports of the meeting of Posts and Telegraphs workers at Mymensingh and Tangail presided over by Mr. S. C. Chakraborty, officiating Superintendent of Post Offices, Mymensingh Division and Mr. Charu Chandra Roy, M.L.A. Bengal, on 8th October, 1944, as published in the *Hindustan Standard*, dated 17th October, 1944, and 24th October, 1944, respectively?

(b) Has the Government received copies of resolutions passed in those two meetings? If so, what action has been taken on them?

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: (a) Yes.

(b) Yes. None, because no action is ordinarily taken upon communications received by Government direct from Branch Departmental Unions.

INADEQUACY OF A. R. P. ALLOWANCE TO INFERIOR SERVANTS.

74. Mr. K. Q. Neogy: (a) Will the Secretary for Posts and Air please state whether it is a fact that inferior servants are getting Rs 4 per month as fire-fighters, whereas 2nd grade clerks (below Rs. 65) and 1st grade clerks are getting Rs 6 and Rs 12 per month, respectively?

(b) Is it not a fact that equal amount of risk and labour are involved in A.R.P. duties in combating fire?

(c) Do the Government propose to grant Rs 12 per month as A.R.P. allowance to all inferior servants and 2nd grade clerks, irrespective of their pay?

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: (a) The reply to the first part is in the affirmative. As regards clerks drawing pay between Rs 85 and Rs 200, the amount varies from Rs 6 to Rs. 12, according to pay which they draw.

(b) Yes.

(c) No.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PROMOTION TO THE GRADE OF SUPERINTENDENT OF POST OFFICES.

75. Sardar Sant Singh: Will the Secretary for Posts and Air be pleased to state

(a) if it is correct that in June, 1944, the Director General of Posts and Telegraphs, Delhi, asked all the P.M.Gs in India to send their recommendations for promotion to the grade of the Superintendent of Post Offices from among the Inspectors of Post Offices and Head Clerks to the Superintendents of Post Offices;

(b) is it a fact that no nomination was sent by the Postmaster-General, Punjab and North-West Frontier Province Circle, in spite of reminders from the Director-General's office; and

(c) if it is a fact that a candidate must not be over fifty years of age and must have five years' service as Inspector or Head Clerk before he can be nominated for appointment as Superintendent?

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) To be eligible for nomination an official must have five years' service in the grade of Inspectors of Post Offices (including Head Clerks to Superintendents of Post Offices) or Inspectors, Railway Mail Service. The maximum age-limit is 45 years and may be waived at the discretion of the Head of the Circle.

PERFORMANCES BY SINGING GIRLS IN RAILWAY COLONY.

76. Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam: Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state whether it is a fact that performances by singing girls commonly known as prostitutes are prohibited within the Railway Colony of Indian Railways; if not, what the correct fact is?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Government have issued no orders either prohibiting or allowing the performances referred to. Executive officers may be expected to exercise a check on the holding of entertainment of an undesirable nature if the matter is brought to their notice.

PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS' CONTROL OVER CERTAIN WORKING OF THE FEDERAL RAILWAYS.

77. Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam: Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state whether the Provincial Governments have control over the transportation and commercial aspects of the working of the Federal Railways and give orders for their working; if so, what the provision of the Government of India Act, 1935 or any law of the country is?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The answer to the first part is in the negative. The second part does not arise.

OPTION RE SCALE OF PAY FOR TICKET CHECKING STAFF ON EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

78. Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam: Will the Honourable Member for Railways please refer to Railway Board's letter No 822-E.G., dated the 22nd December, 1932, to the Agent, East Indian Railway, regarding Ticket Checking Staff, viz.,

"I am further to state that the Railway Board have decided that an employee who held a permanent post in a substantive capacity as a Travelling Ticket Inspector prior to the introduction of the Crew System and who on the introduction of the Moody-Word Scheme is assigned duties the same or approximately the same as he discharged prior to the introduction of the Crew System should be allowed the option with effect from the introduction of the Moody-Word Scheme, of retaining the scales of pay—Travelling Ticket Inspectors Rs. 60-4-64-8-120-10-200-20-300 and Ticket Collectors Rs. 40-4-60-5-120-10-160-20-180-10-230-20-250-10-300 on East Indian Railway, Rs. 28-2-50-55-3-70-78-3-90-100-5-120-200-10-250 on Oudh and Rohilkhand Railway, applicable to the permanent post held by him in a substantive capacity prior to the introduction of Moody-Word Scheme with the benefits of increments therein." and state

(a) if it is a fact that the option exercised under the aforesaid letter in 1932 was final and was not subject to revision in 1944; if not, what the correct fact is; and

(b) how the scales of pay of Travelling Ticket Inspectors and Ticket Collectors were divided into grades prior to the introduction of the Crew System in the Establishment Rolls of 1925 of the East Indian and Oudh and Rohilkhand Railways, respectively?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply to Qaz Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi's starred question No. 832 asked in the Legislative Assembly on the 26th February, 1936

PROCEDURE RE PROMOTION OF ENGINEERING STAFF ON NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

79. Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam: Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state the policy and procedure prescribed by the North Western Railway for the promotion and selection for promotion of the Engineering Staff from grade to grade?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The rules governing the promotion and selection of subordinate staff on railways are contained in Appendix II-A of State Railway Establishment Code, Volume I, a copy of which is in the Library of the House

SHORT NOTICE QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

EXTENSION OF FRANCHISE TO ADULT MEMBERS IN JOINT FAMILIES

Nawab Siddique Ali Khan: Will the Honourable the Law Member be pleased 12 Noon. to state

(a) whether it is a fact that under the Legislative Assembly electoral rules, heads of joint families alone are qualified to be voters regardless of the amount of the annual rental value of the building occupied by the minimum amount specified, and also of the amount of tax paid;

(b) whether in a great number of cases this rule disenfranchises a great number of people who can be qualified as voters if the families were divided; and

(c) if the Honourable Member will take steps to amend the rules in such a manner as to qualify adult members of such families in proportion to the amount of rental value of their building or the tax paid split up into the minimum requirements under the rules, in cases where the adult members of a joint family request in writing that such number of members of their family within the quota be enrolled as voters?

The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy: (a) Franchise qualifications are separately prescribed for the various Provinces in the various Parts of Schedule II to the Electoral Rules. In most but not in all Provinces the relevant rule, ignoring minor provincial variations, provides that where any property is held or occupied or payment is made jointly by the members of a joint family the family shall be adopted as the unit for deciding whether the requisite qualification exists and if it does exist the manager of the family only shall be qualified as an elector in respect of such property or payment.

(b) I am unable to estimate the number of additional persons who would be qualified if the rule took a different form.

(c) The rule in force in the majority of Provinces is based on a recommendation of the Franchise Committee of 1918-19 and has been embodied in the Electoral Rules since they were first made in 1920. On none of the occasions when the rules have been revised has any suggestion been made that the position prevailing in the majority of Provinces in this respect should be disturbed and I would add that any alteration of that position in respect of the Central Legislature would have repercussions on the provision made for the Provinces in the Sixth Schedule to the Government of India Act, 1935. In the circumstances, I am not prepared to re-open the matter.

Mr. Hoosenbhai A. Laljee: Is the Honourable Member aware that so far as the Bombay Municipal Corporation is concerned they acknowledge the several holders of large property as separate members of the family for the purpose of voting and they give consideration accordingly?

The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy: I am aware of it.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: The Honourable Member said that no complaints were received up to now. Now that the matter has been brought to the notice of the Honourable Member, will he get the rules revised? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy: No. I have given you the reasons in my answer. I said:

"The rule in force in the majority of Provinces is based on a recommendation of the Franchise Committee of 1918-19 and has been embodied in the Electoral Rules since they were first made in 1920."

I also indicated to you that:

"any alteration of that position in respect of the Central Legislature would have repercussions on the provision made for the Provinces in the Sixth Schedule to the Government of India Act, 1935."

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: What are the repercussions?

The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy: My Honourable friend should refer to the rules in regard to the Provincial Legislatures which he will find in the Sixth Schedule to the Government of India Act.

Mr. Lalchand Navai: Is the Honourable Member prepared to ask the Provincial Governments to consider this question and then take up the matter in the Central Government?

The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy: As at present advised, I am not prepared to do it.

Mr. Lalchand Navai: What is the reason?

The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy: I am not satisfied that any reasons exist for my addressing the Provincial Governments.

HINDU CODE PUBLISHED BY THE HINDU LAW COMMITTEE.

Babu Baljath Bajoria: Will the Honourable the Law Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the copies of Hindu Code published by the Hindu Law Committee have not been made available to many persons and associations who wanted such copies and whether the Honourable Member has received complaints to this effect;

(b) that the Hindu Code has not been translated in the vernacular languages of the provinces and thus people not knowing English have not got the opportunity.

tunity of understanding the contents thereof; what steps Government intend to take for its translation in the different vernacular languages;

(c) that the Hindu Law Committee has fixed 30th November 1944, as the last date by which written representations on the Hindu Code and the names of persons desiring to give oral evidence before the Committee, must reach its Secretary at Madras,

(d) whether various representations have been received by the Honourable Law Member to extend the date for submission of representations to the Hindu Law Committee, what steps the Honourable Member has taken or intends to take in the matter; and

(e) if there is any substance in the report published in the *Amrit Bazar Patrika* that the Government intends to drop the proposed Hindu Code Bill altogether?

The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy: (a) I have received some complaints to this effect. The Committee has however now arranged to make copies available in Delhi and at the headquarters of each Provincial Government. I may add that arrangements are being made independently to furnish copies to members of the Central Legislature

(b) The Committee has asked the various Provincial Governments to arrange for the preparation of translations of the Code in the principal language of the Province and I understand that the Governments of Bengal, the United Provinces and Orissa have already arranged for translations in Bengali, Hindi and Oriya respectively

(c) and (d). I did receive certain representations on this subject. The matter is one for the Committee to deal with and the Committee will, I have no doubt, be prepared to accord sympathetic consideration to any application of this nature

(e) No. The Hindu Code is a draft Bill prepared by the Committee. It has not yet been introduced as a Government Bill and no question of its being "dropped" by Government arises

Babu Baijnath Bajoria: With reference to part (a) the Honourable Member said that copies of the Code will be supplied to Members of the Central Legislature. It is now the 17th November and they have not been given yet, what to say of the general public. The last day for sending representations is the 30th November. You can easily understand the shortness of time

The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy: As regards Members of the Legislature, I have every hope that Honourable Members will have their copies before they disperse at the end of the present Session. With regard to the time for making representations, I have already indicated that the matter is one for the Committee to deal with. If my Honourable friend wants the time extended, he should write or wire to the Secretary of the Committee

Babu Baijnath Bajoria: What about the general public, who are more interested in this subject than many Members of the Central Legislature?

The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy: I think my Honourable friends will look after the interests of the general public also.

Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan: Sir, may I ask the Government when they intend to ask this House to consider the draft Hindu Code and whether they intend to bring it forward during the next Session of the Assembly?

The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy: I am afraid I cannot make any statement on the subject until I have received the report of the Hindu Law Committee.

Mr. Lalchand Navalkar: May I know if the Honourable Member will send a copy of today's discussion to the Committee, so that they may extend the time?

The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy: Yes, Sir.

Babu Baijnath Bajoria: Why is the Committee situated in Madras, so far away? (Voices of "Why not?")

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE CENTRAL ADVISORY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) I have to inform the Assembly that up to 12 Noon on Tuesday, the 14th November, 1944, the time fixed for receiving nominations for the Central Advisory Board of Education in India, four nominations were received. Subsequently two candidates withdrew their candidature. As the number of remaining candidates is equal to the number of vacancies I declare the following Members to be duly elected: (1) Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad, (2) Mr Sri Prakasa

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE INDIAN COCONUT COMMITTEE

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) I have also to inform the Assembly that the following elected Members have been elected to serve as Members to the Indian Coconut Committee (1) Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde, (2) Mr H. A. Sathar H. Easak Sait

RESOLUTION RE FIFTEEN-YEAR PLAN PREPARED BY CAPITALISTS OF INDIA—contd

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) The House will now resume discussion of the Resolution moved by Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad

Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya (Burdwan Division Non-Muhammadan Rural) Sir, I move

"That in the amendment moved by Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar for the words sought to be substituted after the words 'Governor General in Council', the following be substituted

"That in view of the fact that there are several plans for the post-war economical and industrial development of India, viz., the Bombay Plan, the Peoples' Plan, the Agarwal's Plan, Vizeswarin's Plan and Government Plan before the country, a Joint Committee of the Central Legislative Assembly and the Council of State be appointed consisting of twenty-three members of which six members shall be official including the Honourable Member for Planning and six members from the Council of State and eleven members of the Central Legislative Assembly who would be elected from amongst the non-official members of both the Houses with a view to consider the various plans for adopting the most suitable one for post-war development of India regarding agricultural, industrial, general economical and social progress of India and to report to this Assembly for consideration by the beginning of the Budget Session"

Sir, having gone through all the amendments moved here in regard to planning I thought it would be advisable for us to have a committee consisting of six members from Government side and 17 of the elected Members of this House and the other House. My Honourable friend Mr. Krishnamachari's amendment says "that Government will examine these plans and formulate their conclusions at an early date regarding the future industrial development of this country", and Mr. Chettiar's amendment wants to have "a committee consisting of 15". After considering these two, I amalgamated them into one and preferred to move this present amendment and I hope Government will accept it. Recently we have had several schemes of planned economy and we have before us the plan prepared by the capitalists of Bombay, also those of the Indian Federation of Labour and those by several economists of India. Government also have been making plans from various departments which I believe could not be considered on the floor of this House very easily. So this proposal of mine only facilitates the examination of all plans, and having scrutinised all the plans it will be easier for us to frame a comprehensive plan, discuss it on the floor of the House and ultimately accept the right one. We know that after the war there is sure to be a constitutional change in this Government, but what sort of constitution we shall have we do not know yet. There is a demand for a national Government. Of course a national Government on the present franchise would be no national Government.

An Honourable Member: Better at least than this Government.

Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya: That may be so, but it will not improve the condition of the masses. Planning must be based on an ideology of the future constitution of this country. Present franchise does not represent the people. No plan on present franchise would be useful. People must have voice in the future Government. Sir, man cannot be divided into the economic man, the social man, the political man and so on. He must be taken as a whole and consequently we must have a basis for all this planning. In our country planning means planning for the masses. We must make a plan which will make our life worth living. If we simply think of the economic condition of the country and do not think of the social structure and the political basis of the structure, we cannot really form a complete plan. The present plans that we have got before us are only partial, they all think of the economic structure of India after the war, but economic structure without the political constitution and without required changes in the social structure will not do. Therefore, without taking much time of the House and without entering into any controversy, I shall request Mr. Chettiar and Mr. Krishnamachari to accept my amendment and I hope Government also will accept it.

Sir, I move

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): 'Amendment moved

"That in the amendment moved by Mr. T. S. Avinashalingam Chettiar for the words sought to be substituted after the words 'Governor General in Council', the following be substituted

"That in view of the fact that there are several 'plans for the post war economical and industrial development of India, viz., the Bombay Plan, the Peoples' Plan, the Agrawal's Plan, Visweswara's Plan and Government Plan before the country, a Joint Committee of the Central Legislative Assembly and the Council of State be appointed consisting of twenty-three members of which six members shall be official including the Honourable Member for Planning and six members from the Council of State and eleven members of the Central Legislative Assembly who would be elected from amongst the non official members of both the Houses with a view to consider the various plans for adopting the most suitable one for post-war development of India regarding agricultural, industrial, general economical and social progress of India and to report to this Assembly for consideration by the beginning of the Budget Session'."

Srimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan (Madura and Ramnad *cum* Tinnevely Non-Muhammadian Rural) Mr. President, I support the amendment moved by my Honourable friend from Coimbatore. The subject of planning is a very important one and has been engaging the attention of the Governments of different countries in the world since the conclusion of the last war. It has been growing in importance as unemployment and economic depression increased in many countries and as Russia's experiments in planning began to show remarkable results. But I am sorry to say, Sir, that the Indian Government has been quite indifferent and very slow in giving their attention to this matter. In fact they and their masters, the representatives of our alien Rulers in this country, some of whom are Members of this Honourable House, felt perturbed when the Indian people began to think and discuss seriously about this subject. Their anxiety was clearly evident when the plan known as the Bombay Plan was placed before the country. This is only natural as we all know that the Government of India is subject to dictation from Whitehall whose policy is to promote the trade and financial interests of Great Britain at the expense of the Indian people. Yet they felt the need for making some show of interest in this matter and they began to talk of products like tea and coffee and of roads to transport them. Finding that this was not sufficient, they have begun to make an attempt at planning. But I fear that they are hoping and endeavouring to do the planning by by-passing the question of a political settlement and of transfer of full power to the Indian people. There can be no doubt that their aim will only ostensibly be to improve the conditions of the people but really they will make every effort to improve the prospects of British monopoly capitalists at the expense of our own people and to strengthen the Imperialist hold over India. Any plan of this Government, considering the very nature of its constitution, is

bound to be directed not to the economic regeneration of the people but to political rejuvenation of dying British Imperialism. Therefore any talk of post-war planning by this Government does not mention the most important point and that is the need for popular co-operation, and it raises many fears among the people that planning by this Government may develop into a new and clever device to strengthen the old stranglehold and intensify exploitation of the people.

This Resolution refers only to the Bombay Plan but there are several other plans put forward for the industrial and economic development of India. Without going into the question of merits and demerits of these different plans, I may point out that none of these presents the national and popular view of planning as the National Planning Committee does, and I assure the House that I do not say this from any partiality that may be expected from a member of the Indian National Congress. The Bombay Plan—and I say it with due respect to the able and experienced authors of the plan—gives one the impression that planning is the job only of technical experts and captains of industry and that it implies an allocation of financial and human resources to develop industries without which India cannot take her rightful place among the modern nations of the world. The National Planning Committee, on the other hand, rightly considers economic planning as economic regeneration of the people as a whole, and that the people are to be the starting point of all planning which is to improve every aspect of the life of the people. It has laid down clearly the principles of planning, first pointing out that the essential pre-requisite of planning is complete freedom and independence of the country.

With regard to industries, the National Planning Committee gave as much importance to the vital question of distribution as they do to the development of industries. Pandit Nehru, the Chairman, affirmed that the very nature of planning required some measure of State control. I may here read out, with your permission, Sir, the principles laid down by the Indian National Congress in their resolution on fundamental rights at Karachi.

"Clause 19—Control by the State of key Industries and mineral resources."

The National Planning Committee bearing this principle in mind expressed the view that there should be public ownership of key industries and public utilities and general control over others with which private enterprise was to continue.

With regard to agriculture, Pandit Nehru gave the following warning:

"No social or economic structure which does not provide work and security to the people can endure. In India we have thought too long in terms of upper groups and ignored the vast number of peasantry. This can no longer be done and the forgotten creature, the Indian peasant, who has borne so many grievous burdens for centuries must find relief and advancement in our plan."

This, Sir, enunciates, in my opinion, an excellent and humane principle which should govern planning.

I strongly believe that the basic principles of planning should rouse popular interest and enthusiasm, and I am afraid that the Bombay Plan has not succeeded in doing so. Plans cannot succeed without the support and full co-operation of millions of people. The American ambassador Davies, in his book 'Mission to Moscow' states that when he complimented Stalin on Russia's great progress, the latter replied that Lenin's plans and the people achieved it. In order to have the support and enthusiastic co-operation of the people of India, the main principles of planning in India must secure the full confidence of all sections and classes of people that the execution of the plans will really benefit them, every one of them. Therefore, it is essential, Sir, that any committee which undertakes the onerous task of planning should be fully representative of all interests in this country and inspire confidence among all sections of the people, particularly among those who are in an oppressed and backward condition such as the workers, peasants and women. The committee must pay sufficient attention to the question of wages, hours of work, conditions of work, and other such matters. The National Planning Committee reiterated the principles

[Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan] declared by the Congress in their resolution on fundamental rights to which I have already referred. The resolution stated —

"Clause (3)—A living wage for industrial workers, limited hours of labour, healthy conditions of work, protection against the economic consequences of old age, sickness, and unemployment

(4) Labour to be freed from serfdom or conditions bordering on serfdom

(5) Protection of women workers and specially adequate provisions for leave during maternity period"

Here I might mention there was a certain amount of difference of opinion on the phrase 'protection of women workers'. A great number of women did not approve of the word 'protection' under the impression that in a free India, conditions will be such that women will enjoy full and complete equality with men, in theory and in practice, and that there will be no need for any special legislation for their protection.

"(6) Prohibition against employment of children of school going age in factories.
(7) Right of labour to form unions to protect their interests with suitable machinery for settlement of disputes by arbitration"

As other Honourable Members will most probably speak about workers and peasants in general, I shall, for want of time refer only to women.

Building up a new and planned India is a stupendous task and women must make their due share of contribution to it. The Congress recognised this fact and in their resolution on fundamental rights to which I have already referred, they laid down clearly a clause to the effect that men and women must have equal rights of citizenship. Clause (5) states "equal rights and obligations to all citizens, no civic bar on account of sex". Mahatma Gandhi has repeatedly declared that the advancement of women is essential to the regeneration of India. The fund created to perpetuate the sacred memory of our Mata Kasturba is devoted entirely to the welfare of women, particularly those in backward and rural areas. The fact that this fund has tremendous support from the people shows that they agree with the views expressed by Mahatma Gandhi on women's advancement.

The National Planning Committee appointed a special sub-committee of representative women to consider and report on the question of women's role in the planned society—incidentally, I might mention that I had the privilege of serving on that sub-committee. This sub-committee was strongly of opinion that women should have equal opportunities for education, training and employment in every sphere of national life. Women should, as citizens, have the right to work and rest, insurance against illness, accidents and old age just as men should have, and they should be completely liberated from the haunting fear of want and its evil consequences. There is no profession, no trade, no occupation of any kind which women cannot undertake with success, given the requisite education, and training. This fact has been strikingly proved by women in other countries, particularly Russia and America. Here, I would like Sir, to read out what Mrs. Roosevelt, the wife of the President of United States of America, stated to the women in her message to a journal called *Ammunition*.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) Is it a long quotation?
Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan: No, Sir, it is only a few lines. She says

"I am glad of this opportunity to congratulate the women of the country for the way in which they have come forward and taken their places in industry, often undertaking jobs which seemed beyond their strength or past skills to perform."

I am reading this out just to show that in a country like America, where the impression strongly prevailed that certain occupations were not fit for women or could not be fulfilled by women has been removed by the valuable work of women themselves during this war.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim, The Honourable Member's time is up)

Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan: This is a very important debate and I request I may be given two or three minutes more.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) There are other speakers who wish to take part in the debate. The Honourable Member will have one minute more to conclude her speech.

Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan: Thank you, Sir. I shall conclude with a few words. If men and women work together, the capacity of the people to build up a new and happy India will increase rapidly, but if women continue to be oppressed or neglected, half of our human resources will be unused which will be a great loss to the country and which will certainly retard her progress and prosperity. Women's interests must receive adequate attention while planning is being considered and they must be placed before the proposed committee by those who understand them best, that is, the women themselves.

Sir Henry Richardson (Nominated Non-Official) Sir, in this House a fortnight ago, we discussed the most urgent of India's immediate problems—the problem of how to keep alive her four hundred million inhabitants. Today, although the Resolution is limited in terms to the fifteen-year plan we are in effect met to discuss the greatest problem regarding India's future, namely, not merely how to keep the people alive but how to give them a better and fuller life. The question has a twofold aspect. First, we have to discover how better to utilise the resources of the country and secondly, we have to discover how to make the good life available to the poorest of the people of this land. It is but natural that all sections of this House should be at one in their endeavour to find a satisfactory solution to these questions, for after all, post-war planning is but the logical conclusion to our struggles in the present war. If there were no hope of a better world in the years to come the sacrifice and the hardship entailed by the present war would be without meaning and on the other hand without success in the war, post-war planning would be an empty phrase.

Although the problem is immense, it is after all only different in degree from problems which businessmen face in their every day life, and that being so, whilst we must not be daunted by its magnitude, we are under no illusions as to its complexity. A businessman however, when faced by a complex problem does not seek the advice of a single expert. If he is wise, he is open and ready to receive suggestions and advice from all competent persons and it may well be that the final solution of his difficulty will be found in a composite plan employing all the best points from the various suggestions which he may have received and which he from his own personal knowledge of the problem concerned believes will be found best suited to the desired end. I do not see why there should be any real difference between the attitude of the business man in such a case and our attitude or that of Government in dealing with reconstruction.

Now, Sir, it would be easy enough for us to support Sir Zia Uddin (whom I do not find in his place) Resolution merely on the grounds that the Bombay Plan falls far short of providing a wholly comprehensive scheme of post-war development for this country and its 400 million inhabitants. We might again support Sir Zia Uddin, because of the wide gaps that the Plan reveals as between one section and another. Indeed its own authors have admitted its deficiencies, and since its first publication a few months ago, there has been a general recognition that, valuable as it may be, the Bombay Plan is more a charter of worthy aspirations than a precise blue-print suitable for adoption as the master plan on which India's long-term economic future is to be built.

It is a matter of regret that the additions to the plan which were to deal with such things as its financial implications, and which were promised some months ago, have not yet made their appearance.

As I have said, Sir, we might support Sir Zia Uddin in his opposition to the Bombay Plan on the grounds of its vagueness or its deficiencies. But we do not propose to take that line, because we believe that in spite of its defects, there is much of value in the plan, and if I understood him aright when he spoke a fortnight ago the Honourable Member's opposition was based on reasons that were not entirely technical or scientific in character. And this brings me, Sir, to what I think must be the key to Government's attitude to the many

[Sir Henry Richardson] plans for the post-war development that have come before public notice since the Bombay planners set the fashion. Their plan was the first in the field and its great merit is that it has put reconstruction on the map. It has made people start thinking, it has drawn attention to the magnitude of the task and it has accelerated the tempo of Government's own consideration of future plans. It may indeed have contributed not a little to Government's recent wise action in setting up a reconstruction Department.

This does not mean however that the final solutions to our economic ills will be exclusively found along the lines of the Bombay plan and nowhere else. There have already been other plans, for example, we have had the Sargent plan for education, we have had the M. N. Roy plan and others, and there have been various Governmental plans dealing with particular aspects of reconstruction and we are anxiously waiting for more. Each of these plans is entitled to examination with the utmost care and in a spirit of impartiality and its best features utilised in building up a composite scheme, just as the business man does when he is faced with great industrial problems. For this reason, we are not prepared to say with Dr. Sir Zia Uddin that we advise Government not to entertain the Bombay or any other plan. Surely the wisest course is for Government to entertain them all and choose the best from each. And what is to be Government's method of choosing? An amendment has been tabled asking for an elected Committee of this House to be appointed for the purpose of considering the several plans of which we have heard. Now, Sir, there already exists a vast number of Committees to which Government have assigned an investigation into various aspects of post-war planning. The Government of India have set up a number of committees, or sub-committees to advise it and each of the Provincial Governments have done the same thing. *In toto* the number of committees studying various aspects of post-war development in various parts of India must amount to quite a substantial figure.

Is another one, a Committee of this House, such as is proposed in the amendment, really going to help matters along any further? I very much doubt it.

Mr. Sami Vencatachellam Chetty (Madras Indian Commerce) Certainly!

Sir Henry Richardson: Over a very wide field the facts are already known, and I doubt very much whether at the present juncture the creation of another committee—this time from the House itself—is going in any way to simplify the task of the Honourable Member in charge of Planning and Development. The movers of the amendment ask that after examining the several plans for post-war economic development of India, agricultural and industrial, the Committee should report to this House. Now, Sir, I am all in favour of this subject of post-war development receiving the fullest possible publicity and consideration. But surely we have now reached a point at which future examination should be on a technical and expert level.

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Guntur cum Nellore Non-Muhammadan Rural) Thank you!

Sir Henry Richardson: which further examination of the problem by a committee of this House could not necessarily provide. I submit, Sir, that what we want is not the report of a committee of our own Members, so much as a report from Government of its immediate intentions in respect of this most important problem.

It goes without saying that if reconstruction is to proceed on the right lines, we must be clear about certain fundamental principles. The Bombay plan itself rests upon a double foundation. The first is the assumption that the *per capita* income should be double within a period of 15 years from the commencing date of the plan. Government will have to consider whether this target is too high or too low. It is obviously desirable to raise the national income as high as possible within the 15 year period but if the plan is to be practicable Government will have to form an estimate as to what the possible increase in income

may be. They will also have to consider the relationship between agricultural and industrial income, for these must march together.

There again allowance has to be made for the rapid increase in population and the authors of the plan estimate that to double the *per capita* income within a given period the aggregate national income will have to be multiplied by three. The question arises as to how this is to be done and this brings us to the second fundamental assumption of the planners. They start by assuming that the right way of achieving this result is by increasing industrial income six fold and raising the total agricultural income of the country to nearly two and half times its present level. The reasons for the choice of these particular proportions are not explained in the plan but Government, and in due course this House, will have to consider what those proportions should be. This is not a question which could be decided here and now, for it depends on a careful and detailed examination of many economic factors and on the economic structure of India and of the post-war world. Government has no doubt begun to examine this aspect of the question and we presume that at the appropriate time their views will be placed before this House.

Another aspect of the plan which has considerable importance and interest, is its attempt to state in monetary terms the minimum standard of subsistence. To do this with the required accuracy will demand a great deal of detailed economic information—perhaps more than is at present available to the public. It does, however, seem clear that some such consideration must be the starting point of any plan.

Finally although parts of the plan may be open to a great deal of criticism as to details and indeed have been criticised, for the reasons which I have stated, we are not prepared to go so far as Sir Zia Uddin suggests in his Resolution, which would appear to recommend that Government should not even consider the plan.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee (Calcutta Suburbs Non-Muhammadan Urban) A negative attitude!

Sir Henry Richardson: It may be that Dr. Sir Zia Uddin himself with his great knowledge of the country and his mathematical and scientific background will also before long produce a plan. It may perhaps be based on different principles but with the same essential praiseworthy objective of the betterment of the country. When that time comes we hope that Government will also take his plan into consideration and utilise any parts of it which may be found to be for the benefit of India as a whole. The immensity and importance of the problem in our opinion, demands that Government should keep an open mind on all the essentials until such time as adequate factual materials on which to base a sound conclusion are available.

Mr. N. M. Joshi (Nonmufted Non-Official) Sir, I am very grateful to my Honourable friend Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad for having brought this subject for discussion before the Assembly. I feel that the Government of India have ignored the Legislature in thinking out, considering and framing a plan for post-war reconstruction. More than a year ago they appointed certain committees to consider schemes for post-war reconstruction. I feel that before initiating this subject the Government of India should have taken into consultation the Legislature and secured its guidance. I am not opposed to the appointment of what you may call expert committees or committees of outsiders. But I feel that the supremacy of this Legislature must be recognised by the Government of India. I do not understand the reluctance of the Government of India in doing this but I feel that the Legislature must insist for its own prestige that all these plans are placed before them and they have a full share in framing them and giving their approval.

Sir, I would like to make another remark regarding the method by which the Government of India is proceeding in this matter. They have appointed several

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committees of experts or people interested in various departments of reconstruction but, Sir, I feel that those sections of the population which need reconstruction more than any other sections of the population are not adequately represented on these committees. I hope, Sir, the Government of India will remove this deficiency from the method and the procedure which they have adopted to frame a scheme.

This subject of planning was placed before the world prominently by Russia. Since then other countries have begun to make plans for reconstruction and in India, as my Honourable lady colleague, Mrs Subbarayan, has stated the Indian National Congress long before the authors of the Bombay Plan thought of their plan, had appointed a committee and, in my judgment, it did good work. Unfortunately that plan did not materialise or was not completed on account of circumstances which are known to us all. I do not know yet whether we can approve of the Bombay Plan or not. But we must recognise that it gave a fresh impetus to this procedure of framing a plan and I hope that the authors of the Bombay Plan will be able to complete the plan as they said they would complete it early, because I do not like to criticise the plan unless we know some of the other parts which the authors have promised to place before the public.

As regards the Government of India, they have begun now to consider this subject and they have issued certain pamphlets. In their pamphlet No. 2 the objective which the Government of India have stated as the basis for their plan is to raise the standard of life of the common citizens of this country. It is a laudable objective but I feel that this objective is more restricted than is necessary. The real and full objective of a plan should be to secure all-sided development of the citizens of this country and secure for them equal status and equal opportunities with all other sections of the population. Not only their standard of life must be raised but from childhood the children must receive full education and full opportunities not only for primary education but for secondary education, university education and for training which will enable them to follow suitable and gainful occupations. After that the Government have to plan to give them full employment, not only full employment but full and suitable employment consistent with their abilities and training.

Then, Sir, the Government of India have also, in order that their plan should be completed, to produce in this country physical environments which will enable citizens to live a healthy life. Not only that but the Government of India have to put into their plan all measures of social security, so that whenever citizens suffer from accidents or difficulties incidental to human life, there should be full protection for all citizens and their dependents.

I feel that the ultimate objective of all these schemes, should be to establish equal citizenship, freedom and self-government in this country. If all these plans are to be satisfactorily thought out and framed and carried out, the present structure of society may not be found to be suitable. My own personal views are that for perfect planning for all citizens in order to establish equality and full social security, you must change the present structure of the society. We cannot, in a structure of society, which is controlled by one section of the society namely the capitalists, create conditions under which the equality of the citizens will be established. Neither will social security be secured for them. I therefore feel that the Government of India and those who are in charge of planning should not hesitate to look into the basis of the present society and if change of structure is necessary, they must have the boldness and courage to recommend the change in the structure. Personally I feel that the present structure in which people are enjoying uncontrolled rights of private property is not suitable for a good plan which will be useful for all citizens. The rights of private property may have to be strictly limited and, in some respects, will have to be abolished.

Similarly, I feel that all the economic activities that we are to carry on must be carried on as acts of social service and not as profit-giving activities. The

principle on which we shall have to carry on all our activities should not be competition which has caused waste and destruction in this world and when we are planning we should see that we give a go-by to the principle of competition and base all our activities social as well as economic on the principle of co operation.

Similarly, the present structure under which the capitalists control the industries will have to be changed. The workers in the new society will not be content to lead the life of wage slaves. They will be ready to work enthusiastically and honestly if they have to work as equal partners in an industry controlled by a democratic state.

As regards the proposals which the Government of India have indicated in their second report regarding the conditions of life and work of workers, I feel those proposals are not bold enough. I feel that the proposals are made in a timid spirit. I would like the Government of India to adopt a little more boldness in framing their proposals for the working classes in this country. The conditions of life and work of the workers in this country are extremely bad, the hours of work are long, the wages are low, the housing is bad and in all ways the workers have suffered for many generations. I would like the Government of India now to take bold steps in all respects, and not only take bold steps but to take those steps promptly and early so that the workers in this country will soon be put on a position of equality not only with the other sections of the people in this country but with the people of the whole world. The Government of India in the matter of their proposals for reconstruction of the conditions of life and work of labour, as I have said, have not shown sufficient boldness. I do hope they will change this policy and I would suggest also that they should be more prompt. When I study the literature which the Government of India is producing and the statements which they are placing before the public, I find that the Labour Department is not only hesitating, not only timid, but not prompt. They are still in the stage of having a committee for finding out facts. I do not know when the facts will be found, and I do not know when the Labour Department will appoint a committee to consider the plan for future reconstruction, but I hope that the department and the Government as a whole will be prompt and will act boldly in this respect.

I have nothing more to say on this subject except that as regards the amendments I would support the amendment of Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya or even the amendment of Mr. Avinashilingam Chettiar, because I feel that the Legislature has to play a part and a full part in this matter and the supremacy of the Legislature has to be established.

Khan Bahadur Shaikh Fazl-i-Haq Piracha (North-West Punjab, Muhammadan). Sir, I rise to support the Resolution of my Honourable friend, Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad. I do so with a certain amount of hesitation, because the subject matter of the Resolution is not one in which I can claim either the knowledge or the experience of a number of other Members of this House. I have, however, studied the Bombay plan with the care it deserves, and I have listened attentively to the various speeches that have been delivered in the course of this debate. What I venture to place before you, therefore, are the views of a layman who has attempted to understand the economic theories and industrial schemes contained in that plan.

Whatever might be said against the Bombay planners I think we must give them credit for realising themselves and of making India conscious of the necessity of a plan. Hitherto we have been far too content with haphazard economic development, and it is good that we now propose to follow the path of other progressive and civilised countries and seek to develop the economic resources of India on a thought-out and carefully arranged economic plan.

I would also have no hesitation in agreeing with the general objective of the Bombay planners, viz., to raise the general standard of living of the masses of India, whether it be by another 100 per cent or 200 or 300 per cent. We can also appreciate their anxiety to industrialise India as early as possible and to make her self-sufficing to an increasing degree in the shortest period of time.

[Khan Bahadur Shakh Fazl-i-Haq Piracha]

The plan contains also a number of other admirable features relating to the provision of better education, health-services, better housing and other amenities for the people of this country.

Having said this, I think I have exhausted all that can be said in favour of the Bombay Plan. An objective study of the plan reveals that it is fundamentally impracticable for it takes no account of the harsh political and economic realities of India. The underlying political assumption of the whole scheme is the establishment of a single national Government in India, in control of the policy and the economic resources of the country. This assumption can never be fulfilled. The Muslim nation of 100 million souls will not stand for it. They have chosen Pakistan as their goal, in which they claim and mean to be the masters of their political, economical and industrial future. Nor do I see any signs of the numerous and powerful Indian States, falling in line with the political schemes of the Bombay planners. I do not think that the basic political assumption of the Bombay planners could hold good even in the case of British India. Our war-time experience has been that the Provincial Governments have been most restive under the industrial and economic control that the Government of India has sought to impose, and I have no doubt whatsoever that after the war the provinces will insist on autonomy in the economic field to such a degree that Central control of the type envisaged by the Bombay planners will be practically impossible.

To my mind the second great defect in the Bombay plan is its exaggerated emphasis on the rapid industrialization of India. That we have to develop our industries I do not deny, but I do not think we should ever lose sight of the fact that agriculture is and must remain the most important industry in this country. More than 70 per cent of our population gets its living from agriculture and we know from the experience of Soviet Russia that, however much industries may be developed, the bulk of the population of a country like India will continue to depend for its living on the land. I therefore feel that the Bombay planners have not devoted to the development of agriculture and the improvement of the lot of the agriculturist as much attention as they deserved. Thus, while they propose to spend as much as 4,480 crores of rupees on the development of industries during the 15 years of their plan, agriculture which is vastly more important is to receive a total expenditure of 1,240 crores of rupees only. It is however, interesting to note that notwithstanding this altogether disproportionate expenditure on the development of industries the net income of India from agriculture after a period of fifteen years will still be higher than the corresponding income from India's industries. The figures as given in paragraph 99 of the Bombay Plan are an income of 2,670 crores of rupees in the case of agriculture, and 2,240 crores of rupees from industries.

Sir, I cannot help feeling that this emphasis on industrial development which serves only the interests of a small portion of India's population, at the expense of agricultural development which is for the benefit of the vast proportion of our population is deliberate. The Bombay plan is the product of capitalists whose principal anxiety is to preserve the war-time economic conditions, under which they have made huge fortunes. During the last 5 years of war with the attendant industrial and commercial activity the millionaires have made many more millions but crores of people have only suffered starvation. The poor man's rupee has been reduced in value to annas four and his anna has been reduced in value to one pice only, the difference has gone to the pocket of the millionaires. The boom, created by the war, has enriched the capitalists of Bombay and Calcutta at the expense of the poor who have become poorer. This boom has been such a boon to the millionaires that they want its continuance even after the war is over. They want to create an artificial boom for another 15 years by spending 10 thousand crores of other people's money. By the end of this period of 15 years, they will have perfected a good many

tricks to continue indefinitely their schemes of exploitation of the poor. This, I submit, is the real motive behind the Bombay Plan. War or no war, the capitalists must have their profits, and in consequence the country goes to the dogs, it is none of their concern.

I fully realise that India must develop her basic heavy industries but I do not agree that it should be done at any price. There is a limit to which the general consumer is prepared to sacrifice his interest for the sake of the few industrial magnates of India. Public memory is still fresh as to how the Tata scheme for the manufacture of steel was boosted in India. The taxpayers and users of steel in this country were bled white for more than a generation before the Tata scheme became a success. But what was the result? 40 crores of Indians had to pay 56 rupees per ton more for their steel. For the poor consumers this contribution was a big sacrifice. For the Tatas, the aggregate of these contributions meant a big fortune. All the crores of rupees of profit which Tatas made every year were made at the expense of the poor men.

I fear, Sir, that this story is now going to be repeated on a grand scale. The poor masses of India will have to make more sacrifices. They will have to further tighten the already over-tight belt with the laudable object of throwing crores of rupees into the pockets of a few millionaires.

Sir Aideshir Dalal has come to the Government of India with the Tata tradition behind him. The house of Tatas is well known for their antipathy to Muslim interests. They have always avoided in a careful and studied manner the appointment of Muslims either on the technical side or on the administrative side or on the sales side of their huge organisation. Crores and crores worth of Tata steel is sold all over India every year but even the appointment of Muslim dealers is discouraged. All that I have said about Tatas equally applies to the other huge industrial concerns of the Bulus, the Dalnims, the Sir Rams and the Walchandis of India for they too are noted for their deliberate exclusion of Mussalman from their organisations and business.

The Honourable Member for Planning and Development has been true to his tradition. He had to confess to us only the other day that there was a solitary Mussalman in the whole of his new and most important department. Sir Aideshir Dalal has given us an outline of his scheme of development. Panels will be set up for different industries. There will be the Bula Panel, the Walchand Hunchand Panel, the Purshottamdas Thakurdas Panel, the Kastur-bhoy Lalbhai Panel and of course the Tata Panel and so on and so forth. The taxpayers' money will be spent for the benefit of all these influential groups. No Muslim will ever get a look in. Sir Aideshir Dalal may condescend to appoint a few Muslim office boys as a sop. A few men will be purchased at a cheap price to beat their drum. New Non-Muslim industries will be set up and existing Non-Muslim industries will be further developed. They will be assisted by control measures and the extraordinary powers of Government. The Muslim taxpayer, citizen, cultivator, artisan and consumer will have to make their contributions in full measure for the success of this grand scheme and will thereby be forcing new chains for their own enslavement.

I repeat, Sir, that the Muslims of India will have none of this. They want an economic plan but it must be a plan whose sole object is the welfare of the masses and the increase not merely of their nominal income but of their effective purchasing power. This can be achieved by an intensive programme for the development of agriculture combined with small and large scale industries, producing for the needs of the agriculturists. Industrial development there must be but care should be taken to see that all communities and within each community all groups of people secure benefits which are commensurate with the sacrifices that as consumers and taxpayers they will have to incur to enable India to compete with the highly industrialised nations of the West. And lastly whatever plan we might wish to devise for the economic development of

[**Khan Bahadur Shaikh Fazl-Haq Piracha**]

India, it must fully take into account the political realities, both present and future for the solution of the fundamental political problem of this country, viz, its partition into a number of self-contained and autonomous States. Then our economic problem must fully take this fact into account. We must not also forget that the Indian States as well as the provinces of British India will be more or less autonomous after the war, and will not agree to the execution of economic plans which would involve complete control from the Central Government.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari (Tanjore cum Trichopoly Non-Muhammadan Rinal) Mr. President, I am afraid the discussion on the motion before the House has been vitiated by the tone given to it by the wording of the original Resolution. In fact, asking the Government not to consider a particular plan is a negative Resolution and it is only because of the wording of the original Resolution that I moved an amendment to give a positive turn which to some appears innocuous, and perhaps innocuous in the eyes of some others.

Mr. President, I think it is extremely unfortunate that we should be asked to discuss such an important question as the economic and industrial regeneration of this country on a Resolution so negative in its outlook and with so many issues cropping up, not quite germane to this all-important problem which is dear to the hearts of many of us. I do not stand here as an apologist of any particular class. I am not particularly enamoured of the Bombay Plan. I have not been asked to defend it. However is my Honourable friend Sir Henry Richardson mentioned, we do owe a deep debt of gratitude to those people who brought out that plan, for having focussed the attention of all people in this country to the need for economic and industrial planning. Not merely that. It has aroused the interest of the world to the need for proper economic and industrial planning in India.

Mr. Manu Subedar (Indian Merchants' Chamber and Bureau Indian Commerce) That was done by the National Planning Committee.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: My Honourable friend wants me here to amend what I have said by drawing attention to the National Planning Committee's work. I am not one of those who deery the Congress. I am a believer in that organisation being able to help us on to the freedom which we all want but I am not prepared to do any slogan-mongering here and say that the reports of the National Planning Committee are by themselves a law and that a plan which was devised in 1938 and 1939 will be suitable for application in 1945 and 1946. I do not want to refer to that great undertaking of Pandit Jawahir Lal Nehru here for the reason that the outlook of the National Planning Committee in 1938 and 1939 was something which today is totally out of date.

If my Honourable friend wants me to refer to it, it is perhaps throwing me off my stride. I will say this. The National Planning Committee had envisaged that a total quantity of 50 thousand tons of sulphate of ammonia over and above the production already existing in this country, which was then in the region of about 20 thousand tons, will meet the agricultural requirements of this country. And today I do not think anyone of my Honourable friends on my right will support the idea that the target of 350,000 tons of sulphate ammonia envisaged in the Gregory Committee Report will be the target which will satisfy us now or five years hence. I have nothing to say to the detriment of that wonderful work of those patriots but I do say that so far as the planning is concerned today, we look at it from a different viewpoint altogether. On some of the basic points agreement might continue to exist, but the tempo, the method of working it, and the manner in which we want the changes to be made are completely changed today and that is why I am not making any reference to the National Planning Committee's work.

If my Honourable friend, the Mover of this Resolution, had intended that by means of this Resolution he was going to condemn the appointment of Sir Ardeshr Dalal as Member in charge of Planning and Development for reasons

of his own, I have nothing to say about it. The personalities that constitute this Government apart, I am not one of those who approves of the actions of this Government in any respect. Much as I esteem the capacity, the integrity, and the desire to do this country all the good they can of some of the individuals that are in this Government, the fact that they form part of a Government, the constitution of which I do not approve, reinforces me in my desire to see this Government removed as early as possible. If the object was merely to condemn the appointment of Sir Auluck Dhillon on the part of the Honourable Members on my right, I do not want to interfere. But if, on the other hand, the object was to condemn the Government for not having taken any definite and useful steps, the Resolution does not help us. We may ask the Government not to consider the Bombay plan but it does not mean that we condemn the Government for all they have not done. Anyway, even the Honourable Member in charge of Planning and Development has not motivated us with an opportunity to discuss this question of planning and reconstruction; we might take this opportunity of telling the Government exactly what we disapprove of what they have been doing.

The first report of the Planning Department which was issued in March 1944, starts with a very attractive preamble, the Atlantic Charter, the United Nations Conference on Food and Agriculture, the U. N. R. A. and other methods of International co-operation and leads us on to the machinery set up by the Centre to deal with the problems of reconstruction which it says was done as early as June 1941. Sir, my complaint has been all along that we were not told in this House what the Government was doing from June 1941. A few points on which we have elicited information has been by means of questions on which we asked the Government;— would you tell us what you have done with regard to this Committee? Why are you appointing Development officers? What will they do? Might I have a copy of the report of this particular Committee or the proceedings of that particular Committee? We were however, if I may say so, to be told what the Government has been doing all along. On that score alone we have a very good case against the Government.

Having constituted this Department, or rather the skeleton of this Department in June 1941, we were told in the first report practically nothing. And the second report that has been given to us through the context of the Honourable Member for Planning does not leave us particularly wiser either. The Press has criticised this report rather violently. It has said that it is a collection of claptraps and the methods of dealing with important problems in this country are of a kindergarten variety. But I can say that one or two aspects of the report are particularly objectionable. Some of the fundamental assumptions in this report are far more faulty than the fundamental assumptions of the Bombay plan; for instance, the assumption that any constitutional or political changes which may be introduced will not result in a radical departure from the present economic and financial arrangements. I thought that my Honourable friend Mr. Joshi would refer to this particular basic assumption in his speech. What does it exactly mean? Are we to stick to the present method of taxation? Are we to allow the present commercial safeguards to continue to exist? And on the top of it all is the assumption that a thousand crores will be made available from the Central Government, which is the financial backing from the Central Government that the plan envisages.

There is another important point which has been treated very cursorily, namely, the post-war employment. The problem of post-war employment is being seriously considered in U. K. and there various economists have suggested some radical changes in the method of budgeting. Apparently this second report was compiled perhaps by a few clerks perhaps checked by an Under Secretary and this is all that has been vouchsafed to us. We can very well object to the Government by-passing this House, by setting up several committees and not telling the Legislature what those committees are doing and not

[Mr T. T. Krishnamachari.]

providing any representation for the Legislature on those committees. The Government have selected the members of those committees probably because they were considered to be good people from the viewpoint of the Government. But nowhere is the political prejudices of the present Government better reflected than in the constitution of the Provincial Reconstruction Committees. In the Provincial Reconstruction Committee constituted in Madras there is hardly anybody therein who holds political opinion which is not popular with the Government of the day. Such being the case, I think it would be quite right and proper for us in this House to take advantage of the Resolution of Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad, which, from the way in which Members of his Party are speaking, they will probably drop in its original form and, ask the Government to tell us exactly what they are going to do in order to take the House into their confidence. If my amendment is imperfect, I would say this in explanation that it was really intended to force the hands of the Government to declare their policy and to tell us what they are going to do. But, Sir, while I am in entire sympathy with anybody who condemns the action of the Government from June 1941 up to date in completely ignoring the Legislature, I am not quite sure that the amendment of my friend Mr. Avinashlingam Chettiar is going to solve the problem. It presupposes the setting up of a Committee of this House for the purpose of considering the various plans. I am not one of those who believe that this House should not be given the importance that is its due. I am not against the use of the democratic method in such matters. In fact, I am for it. But democratic method does not mean that a body of elected representatives can sit by themselves and make a master plan on such an important subject which will require much expert knowledge and it is open to question whether they would be in a position to do it or will have the time to do it. If the Resolution is passed as it is worded at present, I see no bar to the Government allowing this Committee to do its own functions, providing them with the necessary *halla* and travelling allowances and daily allowances but not providing them with any secretariat and allowing them to carry on in their own sweet way the work they wish to start. Sir, co-ordination is the preliminary thing that is necessary. We cannot much as we dislike this Government, do without a Government or a secretariat. If this Government goes, and a National Government is set up in spite of the wishes of my Honourable friend Khan Bahadur Shaikh Fazl-i-Haq Patachia, it will have to possess a secretariat to do its work. Sir, what then is the object in our just saying that we will do all the work ourselves?

Then we have to take note of a very important declaration made by the Honourable Member for Planning and Development the other day in answer to a question put by my Honourable friend to my left, Mr. Neogy, when he asked if the Government was aware that foreign interests were planning to set up industries in this country and the Honourable Member said "I have seen newspaper reports but I have no information." Sir, what really happens today is this. If Indian industrialists want to set up industries, whether or not it is Government owned or Government controlled,—whatever be the nature of it—the capital issue is controlled, the import of machinery is controlled, shipping space is controlled, the supply of coal and power is controlled, the supply of wagons is controlled. Whereas in so far as the foreigners are concerned, I do not think any control comes into existence until they actually set foot in this country. Here is the curious position of an Honourable Member of Government—not knowing of what is happening—who is dependent merely on the very newspaper reports on which my Honourable friend to my left and I are forced to depend. Sir, the point really is this. I think the House has to compel the Government to recognise this House by the formation of a Committee of the House with which the Government will work to which the Government will bring all its plans, and to recognise that the final say shall be ours. But if a committee is to sit down and plan apart from the Government of the day the

plan will not be any better than the report issued by the National Planning Committee, assisted by some Provincial Governments which merely gives a bare skeleton of a plan the appointment of a general policy Committee, the appointment of Sub-Committees—the proceedings of the Committee or the reports of these Sub-Committees do not make us any wiser. I submit, Sir, that a non-official body without Government help is futile. Therefore, Sir, I feel that if I subscribe my support to the amendment of my Honourable friend, Mr. Avinashlingam Chettiar, I shall be accepting an amendment which if the Government so wish will, in practice, prove infructuous and if the Congress Party are prepared to take the responsibility for it, I shall have nothing more to say about it.

The Assembly then adjourned for Lunch till Three of the Clock.

The Assembly re-assembled after Lunch at Three of the Clock, Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta) in the Chair.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Sir, it was in this very House about seven years ago that Sir James Grigg speaking for this Government pooh-poohed the idea of the Russian development by the two five-year plans, and denied the idea of a plan of any kind whatsoever. It was at that time, Sir, that the members of the European Group applauded and cheered, like the chorus in a Greek drama, whatever fell from the Treasury Bench. Sir, this Government has worked without a plan; in 150 years rule there are still 500,000 villages in this country which have got neither a school nor a dispensary, and in spite of all this it is a pleasant thing to see that they are also making some progress towards a planning programme. It is pleasant to see that they have appointed one of the ablest and one of the most sincere businessmen whom they could pick up from Bombay for this purpose. But, Sir, here also let me express the difficulty and the diffidence which we feel. There was a time, in the days of Sir Ali Imam and Sir Sankaran Nair, when a single man in the Viceroy's Executive Council was able to plead the cause of non-official India. But nowadays what we hear is that between the two parts of the nutcracker, namely, an English Secretary and an English Viceroy, all the nuts get properly cracked, except those nuts like Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar, Sir Homi Mody and Mr. N. R. Sukari, who ran away.

Sir, it is not, as Mr. Krishnamachari said, that we object to the appointment of Sir Ardeshir Dalal. I say without hesitation that it there was a board which was going to make a selection for this very purpose, and I was a member of it, I would not have the slightest hesitation to have Sir Ardeshir Dalal appointed for this place. But I want to know whether he will plead our cause in the Executive Council or whether he will use his office in this House to explain and justify and support the policies which may have emanated from elsewhere. Sir, I have read the Bombay Plan and I have also read the Honourable Member's report which we have got. These are topics so large and so extensive that it is not possible in the course of a few minutes to deal with them. There is one point in common between both these plans. The Bombay plan could have been made ten years ago or ten years hence, in the sense that it takes no account whatsoever of the great event, viz., the war, that is going on. There is no mention of it, it does not contemplate or recognise the numerous and far-reaching changes which this country and the rest of the world is bound to undergo on account of the war.

With regard to this plan of my Honourable friend he does not say this is final, and I will in justice to him say that this is too provisional, too sketchy and too loose to be regarded as final. Sir, in this plan, at all events, there is a mention of the ex-soldiers and how to settle them. But the first striking point of any plan in this country should be what is the present condition of this country? Sir, we had a good debate for three days in which anxiety was revealed on all sides as to whether the position was quite all

[Mr Manu Subedar]
 right even now, and whether the provinces other than Bengal and Bihar may not have the misfortune to undergo the same travail and trouble, the same hunger, the same millions of inoculations and the same millions of deaths. After all we are not certain I raised the point the other day whether a greater number of bovine cattle was not being slaughtered in this country than is being borne, and if that is the case, whether your Grow More Food campaign may not become a Grow Less Food campaign. These are apprehensions which are expressed all round. Take other issues. Animals are being slaughtered, trees are being ruthlessly cut down, forests are being depleted, even the climate, and rainfall in this country may change. Serious things are occurring all round us, and the first task should be to pick up the country,—whether it is now or whether it may be, in the still more threatening continuance of the war, for the next three or four years,—to pick up the condition there and first of all to repair what is gone, to bring it to the same normal condition as this country was in before the war. That in itself is going to prove a task, I am not sure whether this Government would be in a position to deal with it. But there is a still further misfire so far as the Government plan is concerned and equally so far as the Bombay plan is concerned. That misfire is this. At present in India there is a certain amount of industry, there are a certain number of factories and certain kinds of production going on. All these industrialists,—and I speak with first-hand knowledge of their mind and their heart,—are worried as to whether they will be able to maintain their industry intact and in the same condition in which it is now, or whether there will not be world changes, tariff changes, exchange ratio and other changes, currency and inflationary changes, Government control and ordinances, whether there will not be one or all of these measures by which their present position instead of improving may become worse.

Sir, the other day I asked the Honourable Commerce Member whether it was not true that a larger measure of export trade would fall into the hands of British firms after the war on account of the kind of regulation which they had made and he said, no. I know what the situation is. He must have seen what the Exporters' Association in Bombay has written. But the position is that here and now even during the years of war, when India's war effort is so much spoken of by the other side, even now this Government has not been able to protect the interests of Indian trade and industry such as they are. How do you expect us to believe,—may I ask,—that your efforts will then lead us to the expansion, lead us to the great dreams of great scope and great development which you are holding out before us? How do you expect us to trust that you will have the will, the energy or, what is more important, the powers, in order to do the right thing with regard to not only the existing industries but their expansion and greater development which you propose to bring about? Sir, the *Times of India*, which is claimed to be the biggest newspaper in Asia, is not very unfriendly to this Government. Two days ago, writing on this subject, the *Times of India* said that Government's plan, stimulated, as it is now acknowledged, by the emergence of the Tata plan, was lacking in two directions, that first, it did not deal with the political issues which may arise and, secondly, it lacked altogether any mention of the finances and the financial issues which may be involved. Now, Sir, the *Times of India* does not generally try to put difficulties in the path of Government and yet this paper very rightly put its finger on the basic shortage of this scheme which Government have put forward. Let us hope that it is not final and that Sir Ardeshir Dalal would be able to put the deficiencies right. But can he put them right till he is told what is going to be the financial set-up of this country? Sir, globally we talk in crores owing to the wrong prosperity which arises out of the printing press, we are now not content to deal with a few lakhs or with a crore or two, we now talk in crores.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Thousands of crores.

Mr. Manu Subedar: I remind this House that that patriot Gopal Krishna Golwalkar in this very House for the last five years of his existence kept on urging every year on Government to raise a loan of one or two crores every year in order that compulsory primary education may be established in this country. It was one or two crores every year, which this very Government had then rejected. Now they are talking of running into a few thousand crores. A few hundred crores seem to be nothing in this country in which human beings are dying for want of food and for want of medicine, Government is going to spend 450 crores of rupees on roads. Even if they have no food in their stomach, even if they have no clothes to wear, even if they have no medicines,—no attention of any other kind, they must have beautiful roads which our Government here is going to give them.

There are discrepancies, shortages, and lacunas of all kinds. My Honourable friend must be self-conscious of some of them as I am and our object in mentioning some of them is not to weaken him in his efforts but to warn him that there are many things which need to be attended to before we shall reach any satisfactory solution.

At the same time I have very strongly deprecated what the Leader of the European Group said. This Group, which was opposed to all plans of any kind, has now to climb down a peg or two on this subject and it comes out now with asking Government and this House and the people of this country not to decide anything too quickly—keep an open mind. In other words, have nothing definite. You can keep an open mind, Sir, while the people of the United Kingdom are already fixing their aims, they are already pursuing those aims. Have the Members of this House heard that it is definitely said that the United Kingdom cannot exist, that sterling is going to be a very difficult currency, and that England on account of her indebtedness and the destruction and the poverty cannot exist unless it exports twice the amount which it was doing before the war. In this, may I suggest, Sir, we have got something very ominous because I know to which country can England export twice the amount that she was exporting before except to this unfortunate country. And, Sir, I have questioned whether Government have taken any steps, whether they have made any provisions to secure

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): The Honourable Member has one minute more.

Mr. Manu Subedar: that India shall not buy too dear, shall buy in the cheapest market, and shall otherwise safeguard all the various interests of this country. Sir, I regret to say that so far at least Government have not done so. I beseech them after my suggestion that they should set up whatever machinery may be in their power in order to safeguard the interests of this poor country which cannot suffer any more. And, lastly, Sir, may I say that on reading this Government pamphlet, what was it that was upon my mind.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): The Honourable Member's time is up.

Mr. Manu Subedar: that new services, new boards, new experts from abroad, new institutions, in other words, a very top-heavy administration is already proposed to be put up, and some of us look upon this with very great apprehension.

Dr. Sir Eatanji Dinshaw Dalal (Nominated Non-Official): Mr Deputy President, Sir

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): The practice is for Members to catch the eye of the Chair and it is not quite proper to shout "Mr. Deputy President, Mr. Deputy President."

Mr. Jannadas M. Mehta (Bombay Central Division Non-Muhammadan Rural): I rise to support every plan that will raise the standard of life of the

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poor, and to oppose every plan which, whatever its pretensions, cannot really do so. I am not, therefore, particularly fond of any one scheme or another. The Bombay Plan, which first held the field last January and has since been followed by other schemes, had this fact to its credit that it gave us something to think of. Before the publication of the Bombay Plan, the general tendency was to talk of reconstruction in a hazy, loose, and general manner. For the first time after the publication of the scheme we were pinned down to something concrete. That is the indebtedness which we owe to the authors of the Bombay Plan. That does not mean that therefore we are bound to agree to everything that they have said. The authors of the Bombay Plan themselves were quite moderate in their claims when they wrote it and this is how they put their own plan before the public.

"That this Plan is a statement in as concrete a manner as possible of the objectives to be kept in mind in economic planning in India."

And then they say that they have not yet thought either of the distribution of the measure and extent of State control or the technique of organisation. This was, therefore, a very moderate way of putting their own scheme before the public. But in less than two months there was held the conference of the Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry—in March last—and the newspapers blazoned forth in ten columns, eight columns, six columns of speeches of the protagonists of that scheme, it appeared as if they had tried to benefit the world by their wisdom and as if before that Plan there was no soul who had ever thought of reconstruction. And they were angry that any criticism could be made about that plan. I understand one of the biggest signatories to the plan said, "If India does not accept the scheme, Heaven help India." The fact is that while it is worthy of our consideration it has no claim to infallibility. On the contrary, the scheme is full of pitfalls, and inaccuracies. The Development Member was a Commissioner of the Bombay Municipality for a number of years. I wonder why he should have put his signature to a document in which the housing problem of India is dealt with but is filled in with absurd figures. I am going to prove that to him and he will have to admit it. In this plan the housing required in 15 years is estimated to cost Rs. 2,200 crores for the whole of India with a population of 40 crores. Now, Sir, let him remember that in the city of Bombay the Housing is 74 per cent overcrowded and indeed he admits this in his plan to which he has put his signature. Where 100 sq. ft. should be the accommodation, in the city of Bombay there is only 27 sq. ft. Therefore, virtually three times additional accommodation in the city of Bombay is required before the housing in Bombay can be according to his plan. Now the cost of housing of this 27 per cent accommodation in the city of Bombay is Rs. 225 crores. If he consults the municipal annual reports, he will find that the rental value of the property in Bombay is Rs. 15 crores a year and if you multiply it 16 times the value of the properties will be somewhere near Rs. 250 crores, i.e., the capital value of the housing accommodation of 27 per cent. If, therefore, according to his plan, the city of Bombay alone is to be housed with 100 sq. ft. instead of 27 sq. ft. the total cost in Bombay of housing should be four times, or at least three times Rs. 250 crores.

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar (Supply Member) Provided they live in palaces!

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: Yes, my friend lives in palaces when he goes to Bombay. Do not think that the people in the city of Bombay live in palaces. The city people live in hovels. I can assure him of that. He will learn that 85 people per single tenement will be found to be not uncommon in the last Bombay census report. Therefore, I am not quoting the cost of the palatial housing in Bombay, and that cost according to this plan must be a thousand crores. I say this on the authority of this plan. But a thousand crores of pre-war money would be three to four times that now and still the

authors of this plan have provisionally said that in 15 years the housing cost for the whole of India would be Rs. 2,200 crores. May I say that these figures are fantastic and misleading. I am giving you only one instance but the figures of medical relief are equally misleading. But I have no time to go into that except to point out that this 15 years plan which was boosted for bamboozling the public of Delhi last March in columns and columns of patriotic newspapers is fundamentally wrong on figures. In Bombay alone it will cost Rs. 750 additional crores and there is yet Poona, Ahmedabad, Sholapur, Hubli. Thus Rs. 2,200 crores meant for the whole of India will not be sufficient for Bombay alone, which is 1/15 of India. Therefore if the figures of housing alone are to be put down on the basis of this plan, they should not be Rs. 2,200 crores but fifteen times that.

After this, is there any point in examining the figures of this plan? They are so thoroughly wide off the mark especially in terms of the present money value. I am respectfully inviting the Honourable the Development Minister when he replies to show me where he could correct me and I should very gladly and thankfully accept that correction. I do not want to go any further into the question of the figures.

Now, Sir, I would like the Honourable Sir Ardeshr Dalal to tell me whether in the proposed industrialisation any provision exists for social services. May I ask him if he can tell me what the figures for social service expenditure in the 15 years plan are? I would feel very much obliged if in this 15 years plan any share is given to social services, like unemployment insurance, minimum wages, social policies for the aged, childhood and women old-age pensions, children's allowances and women's benefits. What are the figures which these industrialists are working on? It seems to me that the plan requires the country to support industrialisation by protection, by State control in every possible manner. I want to say clearly on the floor of this House that I stand for protection to industry. I do not want a foreigner to inundate my country with cheap manufactured goods. But there is one condition alone on which I will agree *viz.*, that all the rights that labour enjoys in enlightened countries shall be conceded simultaneously with the protection given to any industry.

Prof. N. G. Banga: What about the rights of peasants?

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: I am coming to agriculture if I have time otherwise I will leave them in your safe hands!

I say that protection I shall give but only on the condition that the workers shall get unemployment insurance, decent wages, children's allowances, women's maternity benefits and old age pensions. Unless these things are conceded, protection will be a fraud, and a further exploitation of the poor people of this country. Therefore I appeal to my friend, Sir Ardeshr Dalal, who, although he appears to be sitting so mildly, I know is ready to pounce on the unwary. I know him too well to think that he is really as gentle as he looks. I am therefore all the more careful in quoting figures where his signature is and I am giving him my own humble submission that in the matter of protection which is wanted by these people, I shall be prepared to give it as a nationalist but on the footing that industrial labour shall get all the benefits which enlightened countries give to their labourers.

The last point is this. England has already declared full medical relief for the people, even though the war is going on, as a part of reconstruction. Is our Government prepared to do the same? Why does Sir Ardeshr Dalal avoid a full scheme of medical relief even during the war? Why? Is it because medical relief is less necessary in this country? I am sure he will not say so. Only six per cent of the people in this country get drinkable water. According to Sir Jogendra Singh's plan published last March 94 per cent. of the people in this country do not get drinkable water. How can their health be good. They drink water full of mud, worms, . . .

Mr. Deputy President (Mr Akhil Chandra Datta) You have one minute more

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: cattle dung They should be provided with pure water and medical relief without waiting for the war to be over

Then again the figure of Rs 3,400 crores of created currency is simply staggering. It is declared to be the starting figure. I ask the Honourable Member not to accept that figure but to read the history of the currency market which is given in any standard economic book. It is pure make-believe that Rs 3,400 crores of created money can be created without putting the country to the greatest misery and trials and tribulations. On these grounds I do not support the scheme wholeheartedly but I ask the Government to examine all schemes.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr Akhil Chandra Datta) Your time is up.

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: I ask the Government Member, before I sit down, to examine all schemes so that the country can get the best out of them.

Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai (Bombay Northern Division Non-Muhammadan Rural) Mr Deputy President, Sir, it is by almost a side-wind that one of the most important issues which must occupy the attention of this House has come before it. In a sense I do not regret that it has so happened, but I do regret that there was not enough time allotted to the House, if really this question was to be fully discussed. It is true that by reason of the manner in which it has come, it was possible for the Government to take the attitude which they have done. Being a Resolution by a Non-Official Member purporting to negative, if not criticise, a particular plan or the basis of a plan which is before the country, naturally everybody was obliged to point out the basic principles which should govern the future question of reconstruction. Hence it is that one finds himself in a somewhat less direct position than I should have wished this House to accept, if we were in a position to discuss this matter like we discussed on the last two questions here the question of South Africa and the question with reference to the Food Problem. And none the less, whenever an issue arises before this House it becomes the duty of those who represent the people that the point of view which they wish to urge should not go by default, whatever may be the form in which it may come and whatever may be the embarrassment which may be caused to us by, after all, parliamentary tactics, which, perhaps, is not the common monopoly of the other side. The amendment before the House which I wish to support is this.

"That an elected Committee of this House consisting of not more than 15 members be appointed for the purpose of considering the several points for post-war economic development of India, agricultural and industrial, with instructions to report to this House."

Having regard to the very terms of the amendment which I am supporting, it is perfectly obvious or it must be so, in any case, that the desire is not to anticipate the examination of the merits of any particular plan. The whole object is to support what we are asking for as against leaving our fate in the hands of the Government. The real issue therefore before the House is not whether the Bombay Plan, or the Visveswaraya Plan or the much-paid-for Roy plan or any other plan is of the same kind (The Roy plan was certainly a much-paid-for plan and there is no secret about the payment that was made for it), but the question before the House therefore is not which of the several plans are good or bad. That is not the issue just now, though perhaps in very few words, during the short time at my disposal I will point out, according to our humble understanding what should be the basis of a plan. But, at the same time, I do not wish the discussion to take the turn which it has taken hitherto, as if the Bombay plan or any other plan was the subject of actual discussion here today.

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: That is the main Resolution

Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai: What does it matter? I should suppose my friend to know the rules of the House better than I do, for he has been a little longer here than myself. I am sorry he has forgotten them.

(Interruptions from Mr Jamnadas M. Mehta and cries of "Order, Order" from Congress Benches)

Sir, I am not giving way to my Honourable friend

Mr. Deputy President (Mr Akhil Chandra Datta) The Honourable Member should not be interrupted

Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai: The words of the amendment are "all the words after the words 'Governor General in Council' be omitted,"—I hope this is plain English and understandable by a Member of this House—"and the following be substituted, namely 'that an elected Committee of this House be constituted'," so that as the result of the amendment what is substantially now before the House is what you may call the amendment. Merely because the discussion has taken the turn it has and because some Member has some pet gibes against himself or for himself or against somebody else, that is not the way in which to deal with a problem of this kind. It is true that there was a resolution before the House. It is in substance substituted by another resolution. According to the rules in this connection, if the amendment is good, the one that will be put before the House should be the amendment which is now before the House, because if that amendment is carried there is nothing else before the House. For what is the meaning of saying "all the words after the words 'Governor General in Council' be omitted"? It is very much like what happened on the last occasion. They come and say "the policy of so and so be taken into consideration" and the amendment is "having considered we come to this, that or the other conclusion." Does anybody tell me merely because the first words are there, that therefore the effective and operative part is not the amendment before the House? But whatever it is, the constitutional position is not appreciated. But whatever it may be the amendment in support of which I rise before the House is that instead of entrusting our fate to the present Government it is the desire of this House that they will constitute a committee which will go into this question. That is the substance of the whole point before this House. There should be no mistake about it. The Government cannot claim the monopoly of dealing with a question of this kind and it is suggested how this matter could be dealt with. The very plan which is the basis of this discussion purports to say, and in fact in unequivocal terms it is stated in paragraph 2 of the plan itself that "underlying the whole of the scheme is the assumption that on the termination of the war or shortly thereafter a National Government would come into existence at the Centre that it will be vested with full freedom in economic matters"—That is really the basis of that plan. If that is the basis of the plan, it is perfectly intelligible that no plan made by any alien influence or alien interests can serve any purpose at all. It cannot be that other persons with other ideas for the good of this country will make a plan and the successor National Government will carry them out. Therefore I wish to clear the whole misconception before the House, that there is no half-way in this matter. I dare say that so long as this particular body of men continue to administer the affairs of this country, they will continue to do what they like during their term of office. That unfortunately is the consequence of the constitution under which India is being governed and I have stood before this House times without number that the obvious farce of calling this a representative Assembly, before which every matter is brought and the impression given to the world as if the people of this country are really associated with the Government of this country should be ended. It is a farce the hollowness of which must be exposed. We cannot merely be a party. We have been told "You do not co-operate". "We come here, if we agree, it is all right; if we do not agree, it is equally all right", and then enter the Government

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House and have a certificate. Therefore it is perfectly obvious that the Government of this country is being carried on under a very few sections of the Government of India Act. We are here undoubtedly. But the other day an Honourable Member who sometimes was on these Benches, having been translated into the other stratosphere, began to talk in very mild language, a language I think which if he had considered he would not have used—"You know the constitution under which you are here, you know the constitutional limitations under which you are suffering." I do not know what he meant; but what he suffers from is a matter for the House to judge. The only short question before the House is this notwithstanding the constitution under which we are working, to the extent to which the limited rights exist in this House, is this House going to assert itself or is it going to surrender itself to the Government? It is perfectly true, and I am fully aware, that notwithstanding the passing of a resolution in the terms of the amendment, the Government may still say that "there is a provision in the Government of India Act by which we are not obliged to implement the resolution of the House." But let us once for all and for the last time understand that this is the whole value of this great farce which is being enacted here day after day. If that is the whole value of the farce which is being enacted, let us understand it. I said so, some four years ago before this House, that out of the many hundred resolutions and votes that this House had passed, notwithstanding the 35 borrowed or pocketed votes, we still find that none of them was actually carried out. I am fully aware of that, and I am fully aware as to what purpose we can make of the very great difficulties in which we find ourselves, but at the same time, if you are going to be substituted as this very plan says, if you are really honestly of the opinion—not merely those individuals sitting here, but His Majesty's Government—that some time or the other and as soon as the war conditions permit or the end of it, if a national Government is to be constituted, then they must realise that what they are doing now is not the manner that is consistent with their belief, if they profess it. Of course if the belief is that the present nature of the administration of this country is to be continued, that they are going to continue to administer the affairs of this country, with the mere profession of this plan being carried out or whatever it is, by a national Government to come—let us fully understand it. Either they mean it or they do not mean. But if you mean it, then I come to the merits of the controversy before the House, because it is no use—it is not a matter of the merits of Sir Ardeshr Dalal for whom, as he knows, and for whose abilities I have very great respect—it is not a personal issue between him and us, or between us and the personnel constituting the Government now. The issue really is, what is it that is going to be the future of India, and who is going to have a say in the matter, because indeed the mighty Government as it now exists, entrenched in the manner in which it is, may say "Oh, yes, you give us advice, we will see what we can do, and after all we cannot give you anything more than this or that, we do not want your approval, we do not want to commit ourselves to anything. We will just do what we want." That is going contrary to the scheme. Let us at least know it because the time has now come when the Government and the Government Member when he gets up to reply according to convention I expected that being a non-official Resolution he would speak before I did, but it is in order not to give any chance of a grievance and to make our position perfectly plain that I have risen before this House. The position that we make plain is this: that this House, notwithstanding its mixed composition, is the only body of men, through their representatives, to have a plan for the future and nobody else can have not merely the right but the quality to be able so to do. And why do we say that? Notwithstanding the fact that we are suffering from the handicap of, as I said, 39 and 11 and four or five others whom one need not name—naturally this is a very mixed body—it is not a real representative body: that is obvious; but still we have the consolation that if a committee of his House is constituted we shall be able to persuade

even those unwilling friends of ours as to where the future of India lies, and it is only such a plan that any future national Government can hope to work

It is a perfectly absurd thing to tell this House "We shall have a plan, probably we shall put a part of it in execution in anticipation of your coming", which had been the custom largely of the other side of the House hitherto, and at the end of that you probably come to a national Government which is loaded with everything they have done and undone. That is in short what we do not want. This House stands not, merely for its own dignity but for the future interest of this country. Why is it said that an elected committee of this House cannot carry on? Somebody told me "But you have not got a secretariat, you have not got clerks, you have not got men, to prompt you from behind, as the Government Members are inclined to be done", but allow me to tell them this: that I have had some experience of committees in the past—I will remind them of a case that is well known to the Government of India, or ought to be. A committee was set up by the Government of Bombay for the purpose of regulating the affairs of the Stock Exchange of Bombay. They invited Mr Atlee who was the President of the London Stock Exchange in the previous year. They had a large number of members representing many trades there. We sat down in a committee. I happened to be one of the members of it, we examined witnesses for a period of some six months. At the end of that, some of my friends told me they were agreeable to the outline which I presented. One after the other as was the custom in those days slowly drifted, saying "I am very sorry, Mr Desai, I agree with you in the main, but this will not do". At the end of it, everybody backed out and they came, and told me "Look here, why do you not write a dissenting minute. I wish to write a report as much as you have the right to write a report". Mr Davies was then Secretary, who afterwards became the Judicial Commissioner of Sind, and he said "Look here, Mr Desai, I will write the report for the majority of the committee and what will you do? You have not got the men". The suggestion was that I had not got a secretariat. Fortunately, those of us who had the energy and the resource did not wait for a secretariat to put on paper our views. By myself and alone, I am proud to say, I wrote a separate report, in a minority of one. It was examined by the Government of Bombay and it was examined by the Government of India, and most reluctantly the Government of India was obliged to accept the report of a minority of one. So that you may be quite certain that you cannot non-cooperate. If a committee of this House is constituted, the Government at its peril will refuse to be the first witness before that committee. The Government at its peril will withhold that co-operation; and if it does that, it does not deserve to survive one single day. Therefore it is no use telling me, as one of my friends imagines "Let this committee go on, let the Government go on". I wish to see the Government going on under these circumstances. If you really set up a committee of this House, it is its privilege that the first witness will be its own servant paid by itself. They will have to come before the committee and it will be the right of the committee to examine them and examine everybody else who has a scheme and ultimately in the interests of the nation put forward a scheme which alone a national Government can work.

That, Sir, is the first answer to the unfeasibility of the scheme. It has always been taken for granted here as if all those standing on the other side and everybody who is paid by collecting taxes from us—they are my servants in the ultimate reality. True under the present entrenched constitution they may not be; but it is time that we told them and they realise exactly where they stand and where we stand with reference to all these resources, that we provide by the sweat of our brow and by the blood of my people. Therefore it is that I ask that not a dissenting member here will be found from among the elected Members of this House who will not be prepared to forego his self-respect and be prepared to say that a committee of this House is not a fit body for this purpose.

[Mr Bhulabhai J Desai.]

There was another gentleman who suggested "Oh, but we are short of experts" That is an extraordinary proposition I have always thought that experts were not members of the committee—experts are there as witnesses experts are there as advisers I have never yet heard in my life that a body of men, with a trained mind, with fair clarity of reasoning and fairly well equipped with integrity and with a single eye to the welfare of the nation can not possibly understand a problem of this character, and there may be those who are suffering from a defeatism which I certainly hope this House will not suffer from No Member of this House should accept this unfortunate position which is foisted upon us that we cannot, as a committee of this House, find out what is going to take place to the nation as soon as the national Government comes into existence, to present it to that Government for the purpose of execution

A few more words I should like to say as to the basic principles which would be accepted by that committee I have no desire to anticipate whatever may be the ultimate principles evolved by them in the light of which they will use the information Somebody says—where is the information, where are the statistics, where is the knowledge of the condition of the country, where are the experts I submit, with very great respect to this House and to the people at large in this country that if and when a committee is set up and the Government here, of whatever personnel it consists, refuses to co-operate with it, we shall still produce a plan which would be acceptable to the national Government, superseding everything that the foreign controlled interests will produce on the other side So that, let us not waste time and money If we really mean business and are honest that at all events in the post-war world the representatives of the country are going to govern the country, then it is for the representatives of the people, however belated it may be, to formulate a plan Let it not be imagined to be the monopoly of a few persons on the other side, however able, however gifted and however talented they may be—because it is not the talents that govern this matter, at all events talents alone I trust that there is talent enough in the rest of the country and what is more there is that integrity, with a single eye to the good of the people of this country, which is the real basis of the whole matter

Then, Sir, I should like to say a few words as to the principles which, at all events, it will be our duty to submit to that particular committee which will be set up and which will examine the information, both expert and otherwise We realise that this country is extraordinarily well placed in this matter I am not one of those who believe that we suffer from that kind of complex which has led to what is called the division between an agricultural and a manufacturing country That is the fortune or misfortune of some smaller countries, far away in the islands either in the East or the West, because it is true that you cannot eat coal and cannot eat steel You cannot eat iron and hence it is that they have got to exchange their manufactured goods for their food and clothing My country is in a much more fortunate position I have it from many standard books that among the 27 basic raw materials which the world wants from time to time we are in possession of some 22, so that you may be quite certain that this country is self-sufficient and can be made to be so under proper genuine national Government, and our resources are almost equal to that of any of the United Nations It is that aim that we have before us We neither wish to be industrial nor wish to be agricultural Our aim is a combination of the two Our aim in the first instance is not to be an exporting country of manufactured products It is enough for us to keep out those manufactured products which take away the equivalent in raw commodities from this country and produce enough in order that my countrymen will not have to look elsewhere for the purpose of manufactured products But that is not the whole of the problem before the committee

The real problem before that committee would be to try to raise the standard of life of 85 per cent of the people who form the backbone of the country. A

great deal has been said about factory labour. It is well known that I have the greatest sympathy with it but let us not have an obsession in this matter. Let us not obscure the problem. After all, at present, on a very rough estimate, some three millions form the total quantity of factory labour. (An Honourable Member "2½") I was thinking of the war, on account of which there has been increased employment. Make a liberal estimate and take the figure at 3 millions. Add another 3 millions to it, for the purpose of the new industries. That is only 6 millions and the problem still remains of the rest of the 400 millions of this country.

In this connection, I should like to cite only one instance. Years ago, we brought a Resolution in this House and we asked that the Railway Department should set up a workshop in this country for the purpose of manufacturing locomotives and steam engines. Sir Muhammad Zafrulla who was then in charge of the Railways told this House seriously that it will take 95 lakhs, as cost. That was his estimate and on that estimate the engines will cost about 20 per cent more than we are able to buy them at in England or America and he thought he had made a great point. I have never known a merchant with any common sense who begins to evaluate the outturn of every single crore of his investment. He forgot, notwithstanding that he was administering every day, that another 80 crores, besides 95 lakhs, had already been invested in this country in the matter of rails. You have the track, you have the rails and the trains ready but you cannot run them. That is the situation now.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall (Member for Railways and War Transport) No.

Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai: It that were not so, we would not be in the position in which we find ourselves in the matter of transport. I like self-complacency and I like that impenetrable way of looking at things but the fact remains that if we had been manufacturing our own locomotives, if we had expanded our workshops and if we had increased our output of wagons, we would not have had to send our boys elsewhere. They are called Bevin boys. I do not like to think of them that way, because they are my sons. It is not much of a compliment to you but if you like that compliment you can keep it. That is the situation in which we have been placed. The whole desire of this House at that time was that you should train skilled labour in this country and we warned the Government that if they did not do it, there will come a time when they will regret it. And hence it is that I say that, so far as any material and information is in the hands of those employed by us and paid by us, it shall be placed at the disposal of this committee.

Then there is another point. You must remember that unless the food problem of this country is solved, you will never make any headway with the real solution of the problem. On that, I have already expressed my views before this House. In making any planning, it is wrong to think in terms of the industrialisation of the country. It is a wrong expression to use. You cannot industrialise the country. But what you can do is to have enough industries in this country to make ourselves independent of the rest of the world in most of the matters of real and vital concern. That is what we can do and that is what we wish to aim at.

The next thing we should aim at is to raise the standard of life—the food and the clothing and the shelter and a little education with a little leisure. That is wanted for 85 per cent of the population. That is the biggest issue before this House. It will be the biggest issue before the committee and our demand is that this committee shall sit and solve this problem for the benefit of the country in order that a national Government may carry into effect all that we ask for. These are two principal things that we want. The first is that there shall be enough industrialisation of this land so far as to render us effectively independent of any other country. Secondly, we want that there shall be enough advancement for the purpose of raising the standard of life even of the poorest man, so that he may be better fed and shall not be asked to

[Mr Bhulabhai J Desai.]

pay Rs 10 for his dhoti instead of Rs. 2/8 and the bulk of the 48 crores of excess profits shall not pass indirectly from the consumer into the pockets of Government That shall not prevail in the time when this scheme is brought into execution. In other words, he shall have a sufficiency of food and he shall

4 P.M. have a sufficiency of clothing Of course, we have not the severe climate of Western countries and so his clothing will not be very expensive Then, he shall have shelter, a clean house It need not be pucca and it need not be of corrugated iron sheets, it will be made of wood and bricks. And he shall have education These are the basic things that we want We do not want to be led astray by all ideas of what will happen if our trade with this or that country will suffer The fact remains that we are a country and it must be the ambition of the future Government that it shall be made self-sufficient just as America has done by raising the standard of its life to what it is today You have the figures before you As against whatever the estimate you may have of this country, there is about a thousand rupees in the other land I do not hope that we can have it by a single bound, but I do believe that if the matter of reconstruction for the future is left in the hands of the committee of this House, who will be a responsible body and who will know what the country wants and understand what the country desires, then alone you will have a scheme worth anything at all Sir, I support the amendment

Honourable Members: The question be now put

Mr. Deputy President (Mr Akhil Chandra Datta) The question is

"That the question be now put"

The Assembly divided.

[While the division was going on, Mr President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) resumed the Chair]

AYES—55

* Abdul Ghani, Maulvi Muhammad
Abdul Qayyum, Mr
Abdullah, Mr H M
Azhar Ali, Mr Muhammad
Banerjee, Dr P. N
Chaliha Mr Kuladhar
Chetty, Mr T S Avinashilingam
Chetty, Mr Sami Venkatachalam
Choudhury, Mr Muhammad Hussain
Chunde, Mr N C
Dum, Mr Ananga Mohan.
Das, Mr B
Datta, Mr Akhil Chandra
Desai, Mr Bhulabhai J
Deshmukh, Dr G V
Deshmukh, Mr Govind V
Essak Sait, Mr H A Sathar H
Fazli-Haq Piracha, Khan Bahadur Shaikh
Gauri Shankar Singh, Mr.
Gupta, Mr K S
Gupta, Mr R R
Habibur Rahman, Dr
Hans Raj, Raizada
Hegde, Sri K B Jinaraja
Hosmani, Mr S K
Ismail Khan Hajee Chowdhury Muhammad
Kailash Bihari Lal, Mr.
Karni, Qazi Muhammad Ahmad.

Kishnamachari, Mr T T
Lahiri Chaudhury, Mr D K
Lakhchand, Mr Rajmal
Lakhand Navlrai, Mr
Mangal Singh, Sardar
Manu Subedar, Mr
Misra, Pandit Shambhudayal
Nauman, Mr. Muhammad
Neogy, Mr K C
Pande Mr Badri Dutt
Raghubir Narain Singh, Choudhri
Ram Narayan Singh, Mr
Rameshan Prasad, Mr
Ranga, Prof N G.
Raza Ali, Sir Syed
Sant Singh, Sardar
Sham Lal, Lala
Siddique Ali Khan, Nawab
Siddique, Shaikh Rafiuddin Ahmed
Sinha Mr Satya Narayan
Sri Prakasha, Mr
Srivastava, Mr Hari Sharan Prasad
Subbarayan, Shrimati K. Radha Bai.
Umar Ali Shah, Mr
Yamin Khan, Sir Muhammad.
Zafar Ali, Khan, Maulana.
Zia Uddin Ahmad, Dr. Sir.

NOES—46

Ahmad Nawaz Khan, Major Nawab Sir
 Ambedkar, The Honourable Dr B R
 Azizul Iluque, The Honourable Sir M
 Bajoria, Babu Baijnath
 Benihall, The Honourable Sir Edward
 Bhagchand Soni, Rai Bahadur Sir Seth
 Catoe, Sir Olaf
 Chandavalkar, Sir Vithal N
 Chapman Mortimer, Mr T
 Dalal, Dr Sir Ratanjy Dinsshaw
 Dalal, The Honourable Sir Ardeshr
 Dalpat Singh, Sardar Bahadur Captain
 Ghasuddin, Mr M
 Griffiths, Mr P J
 Gwilt, Mr E L C
 Imam, Mr Sayid Haidar
 Inskip, Mr A C
 Ismael Akhkan, Kunwer Hajee
 James, Sir F E
 Jawahar Singh, Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sir
 Jehangir, Sir Cowasjee
 Joshi, Mr D S
 Kamaluddin Ahmad, Shams-ul-Ulema
 Khare, The Honourable Dr N B

Krishnamoorthy, Mr E S A
 Kunal Pal Singh Raja Bahadur
 Laljee Mi Hooseinbhoj A
 Lawson, Mr C P
 Mehta, Mr Jammadas M
 Miller, Mr C C
 Muazzam Sahib Bahadur, Mr Muhammad
 Mudhai The Honourable Dewan Bahadur
 Sir A Ramaswami
 Mudie, The Honourable Sir Francis
 Ogilvie, Sir Charles
 Piere Lal Kureel, Mr
 Rasmann, The Honourable Sir Jeremy
 Richardson, Sir Henry
 Roy, The Honourable Sir Asoka
 Shoober, Mr W H
 Spence, Sir George
 Stokes, Mr H G
 Sultan Ahmad, The Honourable Sir
 Thakur Singh, Capt
 Trivedi, Mr C M
 Tyson, Mr J D
 Vidyarthan, Mr L S

The motion was adopted

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad (United Provinces Southern Divisions Muzam-
 mudan Rural) Sir, as I said while moving the Resolution my object is to live
 and let live. This is the principle which should underlie any plan that may
 be formed for the future development of India.

Babu Baijnath Bajoria (Marwari Association Indian Commerce) Sir, I
 rise to a point of order. Can this House apply and accept the closure to any
 Resolution without hearing any of the Government Members on the point at
 issue? We do not know anything about the views of the Government on this
 Resolution and about their plans. I want to know whether the Honourable
 Member in charge of Planning and Development, the Honourable Sir Ardeshr
 Dalal, has got the right of reply?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) I quite understand the
 Honourable Member's difficulty. But I do not know of anything in the Rules
 or Standing Orders which authorises me to call upon the Government Member
 to speak on a Resolution at any particular stage.

Babu Baijnath Bajoria: Then the whole debate is a farce.

Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta (Chittagong and Rajshahi Divisions Non-Muham-
 madan Rural) After the acceptance of the closure the Mover of the Resolution
 will reply and after that the Government Member will speak.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) I do not know if that
 was the arrangement.

Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai: There is no such arrangement. We duly intimated
 to the Government that if they wished to take part in the discussion, they
 could do so.

Mr. Abdul Qayyum (North-West Frontier Province General) Sir, I rise on
 a point of order, I wish to say one thing. Before the Leader of the Opposition
 stood up to speak, I approached the Honourable Member on the other side, the
 Honourable Sir Ardeshr Dalal, I informed him that he could speak immediately
 after the Leader of the Opposition had finished his speech. But he did not
 get up and the Honourable the Supply Member got up instead. It was only
 after seeing that the Supply Member was going to speak and not the Hon-
 ourable Member for Planning that we, from this side of the House, moved
 for closure. Otherwise, there was no desire on the part of this side of the
 House to shut out the speech of the Honourable Member in-charge of Plan-
 ning and Development. It was the Government who adopted dilatory
 tactics

Several Honourable Members (From the Treasury Benches). Order, order, No No

Mr. Abdul Qayyum: If they were not dilatory tactics, I could not see why the Supply Member was put up to speak. He did not care to get up for the past two days when the debate was going on.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) I was not present in the House when the closure was moved and accepted, and so I do not know what happened during my absence. Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad will continue his speech.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Sir, I was saying that I entirely agreed with the fifteen year plan so far as their intention is to treble the comforts of the people. It does not mean trebling their income, because we find that according to the measurement of comfort, there is no proportion between comfort and the purchasing power of the rupee. If we only measure in terms of rupees, then our comfort is reduced to less than one third, and by trebling the comfort and not the income, we will only reach the comfort of 1939. Therefore in order that our comforts may be measured in terms of rupees, it is necessary that we should fix the purchasing power of the rupee. This is the point that I have pressed several times on the floor of the House and I press on this occasion also that it will be impossible for the persons who were planning a thing to get three times the comfort unless they restore the purchasing power of the rupee to the normal position. Therefore any Committee that they may think of in future planning must take up this most important factor, that is restoring the purchasing power of the rupee to the normal conditions. That is the one point I should like to press.

The next point that I should like to press is that in every planning that we make, we should make provision for employment for all, and not employment for the few. The industrialists should live, and at the same time the common people and the labourers and other people should also have the right to live and in any plan that you make you should provide some kind of employment for all.

The next point is this, though we are in favour of development of big industries, because they really supply raw materials for a large number of industries, yet at the same time the development of cottage industries should not be lost sight of. It should be the duty of mills to produce basic materials for the cottage industries as well. They have no right really to kill cottage industries. Therefore, I suggest first that the method of approach for any future plan ought to be that we first restore the purchasing power of the rupee to its normal value, secondly, that we ought to provide sufficient raw materials for the cottage industries to flourish, and thirdly, that we ought to find employment for all. These are the three fundamental principles on which we ought to base our planning.

The last point I wish to press is that we should not ignore the requirements of the Provinces. Though we are a central body, we should also recognise that the Provinces have got their own problems and those problems ought to be considered by any committee that may be formed or by any committee which now exists and which plans for the future development of the country. With these observations, I commend my Resolution to the House.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) I will first put Mr. Krishnamachari's amendment. The question is—

“That to the original Resolution, the following be substituted—

“That this Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council that in view of the fact that several plans for the post-war economic and industrial development of India, such as the Bombay Plan, the Royist Plan, Visweswarayya Plan, have been put before the public, the Government do examine these plans and formulate at an early date their conclusions regarding the set up of post-war economic and industrial development of this country.”

The motion was negatived.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) The next amendment stands in the name of Mr. Chettiar.

“That all the words after the words ‘Governor General in Council’ be omitted and the following be substituted, namely—

"that an elected Committee of this House consisting of not more than fifteen members be appointed for the purpose of considering the several plans for post-war economic development of India, agricultural and industrial, with instructions to report to this House."

To that an amendment has been moved by Mr Chattopadhyaya

"That in the amendment moved by Mr T S Avinashilingam Chettiar for the words sought to be substituted after the words 'Governor General in Council', the following be substituted

"That in view of the fact that there are several plans for the post-war economical and industrial development of India, viz., the Bombay Plan, the Peoples' Plan, the Agarwal's Plan, Visweswara's Plan and Government Plan before the country, a Joint Committee of the Central Legislative Assembly and the Council of State be appointed consisting of twenty three members of which six members shall be official including the Honourable Member for Planning and six members from the Council of State and eleven members of the Central Legislative Assembly who would be elected from amongst the non official members of both the Houses with a view to consider the various plans for adopting the most suitable one for post-war development of India regarding agricultural, industrial, general, economical and social progress of India and to report to this Assembly for consideration by the beginning of the Budget session"

I will put Mr Chattopadhyaya's amendment first The question is

"That in the amendment moved by Mr T S Avinashilingam Chettiar for the words sought to be substituted after the words 'Governor General in Council', the following be substituted

"That in view of the fact that there are several plans for the post-war economical and industrial development of India viz., the Bombay Plan, the Peoples' Plan, the Agarwal's Plan, Visweswara's Plan and Government Plan before the country, a Joint Committee of the Central Legislative Assembly and the Council of State be appointed consisting of twenty three members of which six members shall be official including the Honourable Member for Planning and six members from the Council of State and eleven members of the Central Legislative Assembly who would be elected from amongst the non official members of both the Houses with a view to consider the various plans for adopting the most suitable one for post-war development of India regarding agricultural, industrial, general economical and social progress of India and to report to this Assembly for consideration by the beginning of the Budget session"

The motion was negatived

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) I will now put Mr Chettiar's amendment The question is

"That all the words after the words 'Governor General in Council' be omitted and the following be substituted, namely

"that an elected Committee of this House consisting of not more than fifteen members be appointed for the purpose of considering the several plans for post-war economic development of India, agricultural and industrial, with instructions to report to this House"

The motion was adopted

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) I will now put the original Resolution as amended by Mr Chettiar's amendment

The question is

"That this Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council that an elected Committee of this House consisting of not more than fifteen members be appointed for the purpose of considering the several plans for post-war economic development of India, agricultural and industrial, with instructions to report to this House"

The motion was adopted

RESOLUTION RE NATIONAL WAR FRONT

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) The next Resolution is in the name of Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan (Agra Division Muhammadan Rural) Sir, I have been authorized by Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan to move his Resolution It is unfortunate that he had to be absent today He has apologised to the House for being absent

Sir, I move

"That this Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council to abolish the National War Front Branch of the Department of Information and Broadcasting and to liquidate forthwith the National War Front Organization"

Sir, when the National War Front organisation was started, His Excellency the Viceroy made a speech at that time which was broadcast on the 7th of May 1942 India was attacked at that time and he said that there was a

[Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan]
 necessity for everybody to join together and back the soldier who was fighting on the front. The real object was, as he said,
 "I invite you to close the ranks and stand steady behind the fighting man in the National War Front against the aggressor."

This was one of the objects for which the National War Front was established. His Excellency proceeds:

"Let me remind you of what General Wavell has said that of the elements which contribute to success in modern war the spirit of the people is the most important. This is our responsibility—yours and mine—and that is why I invite you again in joining together in building a National War Front."

Further, he says:

"We all know what it means—a united determination transcending all racial, religious and political differences—to stand up and stand together to defend the things we have and hope to have, and to make sure that they shall never be so threatened again."

Sir, there was a great deal of necessity in May 1942 to organize this Front and to create an atmosphere in the country for the purpose of uniting the people and to make them realize the danger which was approaching on our frontiers. No one in this country objected or could have objected to that. The object was laudable at that time, and His Excellency the Viceroy followed the right course under those circumstances and under that necessity. The National War Front was started in order to infuse a spirit of cohesion amongst the people of this country. As long as that necessity remained or as long as that organisation could be utilized for that purpose, nobody could have said anything against it. But now this organisation has outlived its object. There is no necessity at present to have the National War Front. Of course at the time when His Excellency the Viceroy made his speech, India had been attacked, and Ceylon had been attacked, but now we know that the Japanese are far far away from our frontiers, and the country is united as was desired by His Excellency at that time. There are no Fifth Columnists referred to by him in his speech. Of course Fifth Columnists can never be eradicated even by the National War Front, if there are any Fifth Columnists they will remain so, no matter what propaganda you do or what organisation you have. But the National War Front, as is being administered by the Information and Broadcasting Department, is a totally different thing. Unfortunately, I have not brought some of the pamphlets which are printed in English—and these are printed on a very costly paper—and are being circulated to people. Most of the stuff that is produced by the National War Front organisation is in the English language. For whose benefit is it? Is it for the benefit of Fifth Columnists, or is it for the villagers and illiterate masses, or is it for those people in the villages who are the prospective recruits? Does it serve as an inducement to attract recruits for the Army? If that be the object, the pamphlets and other literature should have been printed in the language which those people would understand. But, on the other hand, all this literature produced in English and is distributed to people who are already contributing their share towards the war and are working for the war. Therefore I think that this money is being absolutely wasted, and all this material which is published, the broadcasts that are arranged, the *Mushairas* that are held are all waste. People are holding *Mushairas* at different places for this purpose and they invite many people to it—it is a mere luxury. I think people do not take the National War Front seriously. They take it that it is just for the sake of pleasure and so they are never guided by what they are to or by what is presented to them in writing. I think, Sir, that all this huge amount of money that is being spent on this organisation is being wasted at a time when we need every penny for fighting the real war. The Government places a deficit budget every year before this country and it would be a crime if it is not brought home to the Government by this side that by continuing this organisation they are wasting a lot of money. Sir, at this time money required for other purposes and it should not be frivolously spent.

Then, Sir, the paper on which the stuff is printed can actually be used many valuable purposes. We find that paper is denied for starting newspapers and yet this most valuable paper is wasted in printing the stuff which needs

cares to read; most of the people who receive these pamphlets, etc., throw them away. I cannot understand, Sir, who induces the Government to do that and who is the adviser of the Government in this respect. Sir, if I had seen that it was producing some effect whatsoever or if it was doing something to help in the war effort, I would have wholeheartedly supported it. But I find that it is not doing so. It is the events which are happening on the battle front, and it is the publicity of events in the daily papers which is producing the desired effect on the minds of the people. It is not the National War Front which is achieving that object. It is being mis-used by people, they are using it to achieve their own purposes. It is public money which is being utilised for some ulterior purpose in the name of the National War Front and sanctity is given to this expenditure because it pertains to the war and behind this shelter people are spending money in the way they like. I think those people who are responsible for this expenditure and the Government will remain guilty before the taxpayers in the future years when they will have to bear the burden of the wastage committed by the present people. Government should, therefore, rise to the occasion and stop the frivolous expenditure which they have been incurring on this organization, as if to show that this was money just to be thrown away. If the money is spent in purchasing material to help to win the war and help to fight the enemy, it is justifiable. I can tell you without any doubt—though I know Government can always find men who stand up here and uphold the National War Front—that there is not a single honest man who feels that your money is being spent properly in this organisation. Those people who are interested in this organisation will say that the money is being rightly spent. But leave them alone. The representatives of the people must see that the taxpayers they represent are not made to pay for this in future years. They will also have to see that the money is rightly spent. There is no recruit on account of your National War Front organisation. This is only a bogey.

Sardar Bahadur Captain Dalpat Singh (Nominated Non-Official): You are wrong. 166 recruits were recruited yesterday in the National War Front.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: I know my friend had made a three minute speech the last time and I know that he is interested in going about attending National War Front meetings here and there. His description may be the description that pleases him. But does it please anyone else? Can he find out any number of people who get up and say so? I know my Honourable friend is anxious because he is made to go there and he is one of the people who belongs to that organization.

Sardar Bahadur Captain Dalpat Singh: I attend local meetings.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: It would be much better if an Honourable Member like him could keep quiet.

Sardar Bahadur Captain Dalpat Singh: I do not think you are well informed.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: But to plead that you are not guilty when you are guilty is something which does not convince the other people.

I would like to bring home to the Government that this organisation is not spending money for the purposes for which His Excellency the Viceroy had started it on the 7th May 1942. There are many people who want like vultures to benefit from the war, because that is the time to make most money and become rich and so they give sanctity to their expenses by saying that it is being spent in connection with the National War Front. There is nothing "national" nor is there any "war front" in this organisation. I would like any Honourable Member tell me that he travelled at his own expense. That is a really patriotic man who goes to the villages at his expense and recruits people.

Mr. Sri Prakasa (Allahabad and Jhansi Divisions Non-Muhammadan Rural): Why does he not recruit himself?

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: If this money is required for the expenses and allowances of such people, who had never seen such things before, then

[Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan.]

there can be no greater crime than that can be committed by any Government which calls itself a civilised Government. Of course no representative Government would have allowed this, nor would it have been able to stand up for a day against the popular wish. It would have gone out of power in a day. What is happening now is that money is being spent on things and on persons that do not merit such expenditure and I think that it is the duty of this House to take to task those people who have allowed such things to exist.

My position is absolutely clear. I say nothing is being gained from all this expenditure. This was a useful organisation when it started, but it has now ceased to be useful.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar (Salem and Coimbatore cwm North Arcot Non-Muhammadian Rural) Was it?

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: At that time it was thought to be necessary because Japan was knocking at our door. But now Japan is hundreds of miles away from the Indian frontier. Therefore that necessity is not there. If it was started with the idea of arousing the people in this country that was laudable. But we are not going to judge any organisation by the objects behind it but by the way it works and the way that the money is spent. These are the two criteria. I find that the money is not properly spent and the organisation is not working as properly as it ought to have done. It is not doing and gaining anything for the laudable objects behind it and it is not achieving any of those objects. Therefore this organisation does not deserve to remain any more and the sooner it is wound up the better because the people of this country, the poor taxpayer, will be saved from the further burden of fresh taxation at the next budget and their difficulties not made more burdensome.

We know that nowadays, as it has been brought before this House and before the Government also, that the poor agriculturists are suffering a lot. Though it may be said that he is selling his crops at a higher cost, he cannot make both ends meet even with the extra money that he gets now. The agriculturist, whom you call the farmer, may be making more money but what about the poor agricultural labourer. There are in many provinces two different classes, one is the farmer and the other is the farm labourer. The farm labourer is not making anything more even if a farmer can sell his produce at a higher cost. The poor labourer is starving. These are the people for whom there is nothing which is provided and these people will have to pay further in taxation and in buying goods which are costlier. For a pair of *dhoti* which he used to buy at Re 1 or Rs 1/8 before the war he has to pay now Rs 3/8 on account of the war and they cannot afford to do this. How long are you going to make him pay like this. Therefore every penny that is saved will bring relief to these poor farm labourers in the villages, will stop further taxation and will bring the price of goods to a lower level. Therefore the time has come to do something and the literature which was distributed was found absolutely unnecessary. I don't know what money has already been spent on this organisation, I do not possess the exact figures for the current year but it must be a considerable amount in any case. I submit my views before this House that this money should be saved and should be stopped from being spent any more.

It may be argued that the war is still going on and we do not know how long it will go on. I know it may be said that nobody can foretell how long this war is going to continue. It means two things. It will mean that you will require more recruits. I think the recruiting has stopped, because already you have got so many recruits whom you cannot provide with weapons properly. Therefore it is not necessary to have more recruits, unless you thoroughly arm them and the money which you require is not now necessary for the purpose of getting recruits. Money is required for arming your recruits who have already been recruited and therefore this money which you were formerly spending on the National War Front should be used for the purpose of giving good equipment to your soldiers who will probably have to put up a stronger

and harder fight in the future. The second thing is that if this war continues, it may be said that this organisation must continue, so that it may keep up the morale of the people. Morale is necessary but why not give some kind of subsidy to the daily papers who may put up some kind of advertisement. This probably is done even now to a certain extent. But this does not require any organisation behind you.

Mr. M. Ghiasuddin (Punjab Landholders): So you are in favour of giving a subsidy to newspapers?

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: I have got only two or three minutes more and so I do not want to be disturbed. It should be made certain that that paper which is given a subsidy is not doing any political propaganda in favour of any particular party which, under the garb of receiving this subsidy, is meant really to do something else. It is the money supplied by the National War Front and the paper should not do some other work. We have known that the money has been used and misused in this respect. I am glad my friend Mr. Ghiasuddin has brought to my notice that some papers are subsidised in certain provinces for this very purpose, that they may do the propaganda of a particular party and those papers which have been given the most subsidy, they are doing the most propaganda for a particular party in a particular province and if these people are using and misusing this money in this manner, then the sooner this money is stopped the better it is. It will be in the interests of this country that the Government does not mix up with party politics. Has not H. E. the Viceroy at that time very rightly said "We all know what it means—a united determination, transcending all racial, religious and political differences"? Now what we find is that this money is not being used for transcending these political differences but for accentuating these differences to a greater extent. Therefore I think it is defeating the object for which His Excellency had started this organisation. I do not want to introduce that matter, it will not be very pertinent to the present Resolution or it may have been discussed before, but I want to bring to the notice of the Government that it is an open secret that this money is used at least in one province and probably in many other provinces for purposes other than what have been mentioned by H. E. the Viceroy. There are many people who want to get some kind of benefit from the Government, to get some kind of contracts in their name. These people joined the National War Front to make their own propaganda and their ulterior motive is to gain from the Government as much as they can get in whatever shape or form, it may be in the shape of a contract, it may be in the shape of some help or other and the National War Front is used for these ends by these people. They are sham people, who have no following in the country. These people are not liked by anybody and they are practically disliked by every body. They seek the Government's favour by telling all kinds of falsehood and are misleading the authorities. Instead of giving the Government any help they are really by their actions stopping the real supporters of the Government who would give their help voluntarily to the Government. Those honest people and real patriots who will spend their own money and do every thing for the Government are kept back simply because they feel ashamed to be associated with that class of people whom the Government is nowadays employing. Sir, those people will never like their names to be mixed up with such A.B.C.'s when they find that they are in the field and they are doing this.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member's time is up.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: With these words I move the Resolution and commend it to the House.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Resolution moved.

"That this Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council to abolish the National War Front Branch of the Department of Information and Broadcasting and to liquidate forthwith the National War Front Organization."

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: There is a small amendment, Sir, in my name: may I move it and stop?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) Yes, but no speech now

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: I move

"That after the words 'Governor General in 'ouncil' the words 'to immediately take steps' be inserted, and that at the end of the Resolution the words 'in the Centre and the Provinces' be added "

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) Amendment moved

"That after the words 'Governor General in 'ouncil' the words 'to immediately take steps' be inserted, and that at the end of the Resolution the words 'in the Centre and the Provinces' be added "

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Monday, the 20th November, 1944.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Monday, 20th November, 1944

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber of the Council House at Eleven of the Clock, Mr President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) in the Chair

MEMBER SWORN .

Mr Zahid Husain, C I E , M L A (Government of India Nominated Official)

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(a) ORAL ANSWERS

REVIEW COMMITTEE FOR TATA RESEARCH INSTITUTE

564. *Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state

(a) if, in virtue of a statutory provision, a Committee is appointed to review the work and administration of the Tata Research Institute at Bangalore,

(b) when such a quinquennial reviewing committee was last appointed and what were the suggestions of this Committee, and if effect has been given to any of these suggestions, if not, why not,

(c) if any attempts are made to see that there is continuity of policy and outlook in the matter of research and administration, if so, what attempts are made,

(d) if the Government will satisfy themselves that the Institute is not losing its All-India character and the research tradition and continuity; and

(e) how many schemes were sent by the Government of India for research work since 1940 to this Institute, and of these how many were worked out fully, how many have been stopped by the Government and how many were stopped for want of chemicals necessary for research work?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) There is no statutory requirement but, under the Regulations of the Institute, a quinquennial review of the working and progress of the Institute has to be conducted by a committee appointed by the Visitor for that purpose

(b) The last quinquennial reviewing committee was appointed in 1936. The suggestions of the Committee are contained in their Report which was published with the Department of Education, Health and Lands Resolution No F 55-B/36-B, dated the 21st November 1936, copies of which are available in the Library of the House. Many of the recommendations were accepted. A reference is invited to a statement laid on the table of the House in reply to Mr. C N Muthuranga Mudaliar's starred question No 469 on 1st October 1937. The next review has been unavoidably postponed until after the war.

(c) This is the direct concern of the Council of the Institute on which the Government of India is represented, and the Reviewing Committees are also asked to report on this aspect of the Institute.

(d) Government has no reason to believe that the Institute is losing its All-India character or its research tradition and continuity.

(e) The information asked for is laid on the table of the House.

Name of the Department	Number of schemes sent by the Government since 1940	Number of schemes worked out fully	Number of schemes stopped	Remarks
General Chemistry Section . . .	16 (B S I R)	6	One scheme has been stopped for lack of proper equipment	9 schemes are under progress
Organic Chemistry Section . . .	8 (B S I R)	2	One scheme was discontinued to stop duplication as the products were being manufactured by the Tata Oil Mills and the Calcutta Chemical Co	3 schemes are under progress
Biochemistry Department . . .	6 (I C A R) 2 (B S I R) 1 (U R F A) 3 (Food Dept) 4 (Medical Dept) 1 (Plants Gases rectorate)	Supply Dept All the 17 schemes have been worked out fully.	N/d	One of the schemes has been developed on All-India basis
Electrical Technology Department . . .	8 (B S I R)	5	N/d.	One scheme is being continued

B S I R = Board of Scientific and Industrial Research
 I C A R = Imperial Council of Agricultural Research
 U R F A = Indian Research Fund Association

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: It has been said that most of the recommendations were accepted. I wish to know about two recommendations. Was it recommended that the scholarship of the students should be increased?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: If the Honourable Member will let me know the two matters he is interested in, I will make a note of them and let him have a reply. There are a very large number of recommendations.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: There are only two recommendations about which I wish to inquire. The first is about the scholarship. So far as my impression goes, it was recommended that the scholarship should be 100. It was brought down to 60 and it has since been reduced to 40 in these hard days. Is it considered desirable to carry out the recommendation in this fashion?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I am afraid I must ask for notice. I will look into it certainly.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: Another recommendation is about the complete bifurcation of the administrative and academic work. Has that been carried out? If not, why not?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I will look into that too.

Mr. Lalchand Navalkar: Who were the members of that Committee on behalf of the Government?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: The reviewing committee is an *ad hoc* committee appointed every five years and consisting of three experts. There is no standing committee. On the last occasion, it was Sir James Irvine, the Vice-Chancellor of Saint Andrews University, Dr S. S. Bhatnagar and Dr Mackenzie who was once D. P. I. in the United Provinces and was at that time, I think, the Vice-Chancellor of the Osmania University. That was the last committee of review.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: May I know why work on aniline dyes, crinoline and wireless was stopped?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: The details are in the statement. If these points are not covered by the statement, I will find out and let the Honourable Member know.

AMALGAMATION OF PURCHASE AND PLANNING SECTIONS IN FOOD DEPARTMENT

565. ***Mr. H. M. Abdullah:** (a) Will the Honourable the Food Member kindly say whether it is a fact that Purchase and Planning Sections dealing with supply of foodstuffs to Defence Services have been amalgamated?

(b) Is it a fact that officers and staff now deal with Purchase as well as Planning work?

(c) Is it a fact that in the Directorate General of Supply Purchase and Planning work is done by two different Sections?

(d) Is it a fact that Superintendents promoted as Assistant Directors in the Directorate General of Supply receive Rs. 100 per mensem in addition to their pay in the scales of Superintendents?

(e) Is it a fact that Superintendents promoted as Assistant Directors in the Food Department (III) are not given Rs. 100 per mensem in addition to their pay in the scales of Superintendents? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) to (d) The Honourable Member is apparently correctly informed.

(e) Yes. When the new scales were considered and sanctioned it was decided that the additional responsibilities of the Assistant Directors do not call for an increment of Rs. 100.

FOOD DEPARTMENT ESTABLISHMENT COMMITTEE

566. ***Mr. H. M. Abdullah:** (a) Will the Honourable the Food Member kindly state whether it is a fact that in the Food Department an Establishment Committee has been formed which deals with promotion and recruitment of staff?

(b) Is it a fact that there is no Muslim on this Committee to look after the interests of the Muslim Community? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) Yes.

(b) The Officers comprising the Committee can be relied upon to observe the rules on the subject. Moreover, their recommendations are subject to the final orders of the Secretary and of myself in all important cases.

Mr. Lalchand Navai: May I know if the scheme that the Honourable Member was making for the procurement and distribution of food in the provinces is ready?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I submit that does not arise out of the question on the Order paper.

PAUCITY OF MUSLIM OFFICERS IN FOOD DEPARTMENT (III)

567. ***Mr. H. M. Abdullah:** (a) Will the Honourable the Food Member please state if it is a fact that on the Secretariat side of the Food Department (III) there are at present four officers and none of them is a Muslim?

(b) Is it a fact that a post of a Deputy Secretary has recently been sanctioned on the Secretariat side of the Food Department (III)?

(c) Does the Honourable Member propose to fill this vacancy by a Muslim so that the Muslim Community may also be represented on the Secretariat side?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) There are five such Officers. None of them at present is a Muslim.

(b) Yes

(c) The post has already been filled.

Mr. Muhammad Ashar Ali: The Honourable Member said that out of five officers none is a Muslim. He gave no cogent reasons. May I know why?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: For the simple reason that I have not been able to secure a suitable Muslim.

Mr. Muhammad Ashar Ali: Is it not too late in the day for the Honourable Member to say that suitable Muslims are not available?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: The position is that these posts are filled by officers drawn from the services, the ICS particularly. It is very difficult for me to get the man I want from the provinces.

Mr. Muhammad Ashar Ali: Has the Honourable Member written to the provinces, particularly Bengal?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I would like to tell the Honourable Member that I myself mentioned the names of two Muslims from the U P and I could not get them.

DEPUTATION OF OFFICERS TO UNITED KINGDOM FOR STUDY OF DEHYDRATION PROCESSES

568. ***Mr. H. M. Abdullah:** (a) Will the Honourable the Food Member please state if it is a fact that two officers of the Food Department (III) have been sent by air to the United Kingdom to study methods and processes of dehydration of foodstuffs there and on return to this country guide the Dehydration Industry in India?

(b) Is it also a fact that two experts in dehydration have recently been imported from the United Kingdom to guide the Dehydration Industry in India?

(c) If the replies to (a) and (b) above be in the affirmative, what are the reasons for taking double action?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) and (b) Yes.

(c) The Food Department has to meet urgent demands from the Defence Services for dehydrated food stuffs, and in order to plan new factories and bring existing factories thoroughly up to date it was necessary to import two men with actual practical factory experience of the latest methods quickly and temporarily. One of them has been recruited for one year, and the other for six months only. Since, however, it is also desirable that we should in future be dependent to the smallest degree possible on experts from outside India, we decided to send two Indian Officers to the U.K. to investigate modern methods of food technology, with special reference to the processes of dehydration and to modern methods of packing. Their experience on return will be of permanent benefit to the Department and to the Industry.

Mr. Muhammad Asrar Ali: Will the Honourable Member kindly mention the names of the two candidates who have been selected?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: They were two officers of the Department. One is, I believe, Dr B C Guha, who is now our Chief Technical Adviser. The other name I have not got here with me. I will give that name to the Honourable Member later.

Mr. H. M. Abdullah: May I ask whether these two officers were promoted or they were directly recruited?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: There is no question of promotion or recruitment. They are officers of the Department and they are simply being deputed to U K to learn the modern methods. That is all.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: With regard to part (b) of the question, may I ask whether these two experts have been imported from outside and were none available in India?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I have already replied to this question.

IMPORTS OF CONSUMER GOODS

569. **Mr T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** (a) Will the Honourable the Commerce Member please state what those consumer goods are that the Government propose to give preference now that some shipping space is available?

(b) What is the extent of their imports in the present financial year?

(c) To what extent have they affected the manufacture of those articles in India?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) The main civilian consumer goods for which import licences are granted are —

Drugs and medicines, toilet requisites, paper, stationery, books, artificial silk fabrics, woollen fabrics, glass-ware, crockery, hardware, cycles, photo-goods, hurricane lamps, clocks and watches.

(b) The imports of the above mentioned articles during the four months April-July 1944 were of the value of about Rs 9 crores. It is not at present possible to estimate the value of the goods that might come forward by the end of the current financial year.

(c) There is no reason to expect that the import of these items which are either not produced in India or produced in inadequate quantities, will adversely affect Indian manufacturing interests.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I know what are the facts they took into consideration in allowing these imports?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: As I have said, the preliminary thing is whether there is enough supply and, secondly, whether there is enough production within this country and also the need of the consuming public. Taking all these factors into consideration and also having regard to the primary fact that they do not adversely affect the Indian industries, we decided on these licences.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I know whether the Government took into consideration the fact that the toilettes are not a very essential thing just now in this country and that more essential goods can be imported?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: Yes, Sir. But it is very difficult to make an estimate as to which article is essential and which is not. "Toilettes" include quite a lot of things and the list is quite heavy.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Why have they imported two millions of hurricane lamps when kerosene is not available in this country?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: The hurricane lamps are needed at least to the extent to which the kerosene oil is supplied.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: Are not medicines quite as important as toilette requisites?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: Drugs and medicines are given primarily the first place.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Are not hurricane lamps available in India?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Next question.

AUTOMOBILES MANUFACTURING COMPANIES.

570. *Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies please state how many companies have been floated for the manufacture of automobiles?

(b) Have they approached the Government for any sort of help?

(c) What has been the attitude of Government in the matter?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) Two

(b) Yes

(c) Government have always given all assistance and help to the different concerns

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: What is the sort of assistance they have asked for?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: One of the companies asked for dollar exchange facilities to cover the salaries and the travelling allowances of the technical personnel to be selected. These facilities were granted to them. Then, assistance was also sought and given for securing air-priority passages for their representatives proceeding abroad for selecting technical engineers for their firm and for two trainees, proceeding for training.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: When does the Government expect these things to be a going concern?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: That, I am afraid, I am not in a position to say because I am not in possession of the facts just now. But we are giving them fullest facilities.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Has any of these concerns asked for financial assistance? Have they asked that Government should take a portion of their shares or should lend them certain funds?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I am not aware of that.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is the question of granting tariff protection to this industry under the consideration of the Government?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: The question of granting the tariff protection to all the industries is now under the consideration of the Government.

APPLICATIONS FOR NEWSPAPER PERMITS

571. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies be pleased to state how many applications were received for permits to start new newspapers since the control has been instituted?

(b) For how many permits were granted in each of the Provinces and details as to the English and local languages to be separately given?

(c) On what basis were the new permits usually granted?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) It is not clear to which "control" the Honourable Member refers. Under any control affecting new newspapers the collection of information asked for will involve an expenditure of time and labour which Government do not consider justified in present conditions.

(b) and (c) The information is being collected and will be supplied to the Honourable Member in due course.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: How many papers have been refused permission under the Paper Control Order?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I want notice of that question.

SHORTAGE OF SPECTACLES GOODS

572. *Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies be pleased to state

(a) the shortage, if any of Spectacle Goods in India;

(b) if he is aware that in rural areas people cannot buy spectacles even at 10 times the pre-War prices due to opticians having almost no stock, if so, what steps Government has taken to make spectacles available;

(c) if there are any firms in India engaged in the mass production of Lenses, Frames, and spectacle cases, for civilian consumption, if so, what their names are; and

(d) if any firm or firms (if possible please state names) has applied for any assistance from Civil Supplies Department of the Government of India, if so, what kind of assistance they have asked for, and how their applications have been disposed off? (Please state names of the firms who have been helped by the Government)

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) There is a shortage of optical goods in India

(b) All possible steps are being taken to increase indigenous production and imports

(c) There are none

(d) Certain firms engaged in the production of cheap quality spectacles have applied to Government for assistance. The firms of Messrs. Takandas H. Katara and H. Katara of Karachi and Messrs. Kundan Lal Ram Lal of Amritsar have applied for and received import licences for celluloid and other plastics for the manufacture of spectacle frames. Messrs. Mumick of New Delhi have recently applied for assistance in obtaining electric power and steel for the manufacture of spectacle cases.

Mr. Muhammad Asrar Ali: Does not the Government think that this is one of the most necessary articles and therefore the Government should give a sort of subsidy to the people who are making frames and lenses?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: Certainly we want better eyesight for everybody

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: May I ask if they have asked for any subsidy and whether any subsidy has been given to them?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I want notice of this question

ADVANCE REALIZATION OF SAUDI DUES FROM HAJ PILGRIMS

†573. ***Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani:** (a) Has the attention of the Honourable Member for Commonwealth Relations been drawn to a note published in daily *Inqilab* of Lahore dated 26th October, 1944 on page 3, with regard to the payment of Saudi dues being realised from Hedjaz pilgrims before embarkation from Indian port?

(b) Is it a fact that every pilgrim had to pay Rs. 444-8-0 instead of Rs. 202-8-0 actually due according to current rate of exchange?

(c) Will the Honourable Member be pleased to sanction the refund of the excess amount realised and order to abolish the system of advance payment in India, if not, why not?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: (a) Yes

(b) According to the rate of exchange of sovereigns the dues might have been Rs. 202-8-0. Payment could not, however, be received in gold as, owing to existing restrictions, gold could not be exported for making remittances to the Saudi Arabia Government. In accordance with the decision of the Saudi Arabia Government, the proceeds of these dues have to be remitted to them in rupees. The rupee exchange rate of Rial had been laid down by the Saudi Arabia Government and this exchange rate was binding on us. According to this rupee exchange rate Rs. 444 4-0 had to be recovered per head for these dues.

(c) As regards the first part, attention is invited to my reply to part (d) of starred question No. 424. As regards the second part, the system of advance payment had to be adopted in accordance with the instructions of the Saudi Arabia Government. It was enforced also in other Muslim countries from which Haj pilgrims proceeded. The Government of India are not in a position to abolish the system.

IMPORT LICENCES FOR BICHROMATE OF SODA

574. ***Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari:** Will the Honourable the Commerce Member please state:

(a) for what quantities of Bichromate of Soda and to how many people import licences for the same were given since 1st July, 1943,

†Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner being absent.

(b) the procedure followed by the Department before granting import licences for such chemicals,

(c) if the authorities satisfy themselves that local production is inadequate, before import quotas are assigned; and

(d) whether other Departments or the Government of India are consulted before the Commerce Department takes action in this matter?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) Licences were issued to one firm for 1,500 tons in each of the shipping periods July-December 1943 and January-June 1944. No licence has been issued for the current half year July-December 1944.

(b) Applications are considered on merits with due regard to the total requirements of the country, stock position and the extent of indigenous production.

(c) Yes

(d) Yes. Other Departments concerned are consulted.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: Will the Honourable Member kindly disclose the name of the firm to which licences for imports have been granted?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: It is not in the public interest to disclose the names of people to whom licences are granted.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Is it a British firm or an Indian firm?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I think it is a British firm.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: May I ask the Honourable Member if he has really satisfied himself that the factories which are now engaged in the production of Bicarbonate of Soda in this country are not working up to their full capacity?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I take it that the Departments whom we consult on all these matters take all these facts into consideration. The Commerce Department is only concerned with the issue of licences on the material available and the opinions received.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: May I ask the Honourable Member if his Department or any other allied Department has definitely gone into the question that these factories are or are not manufacturing Bicarbonate of Soda to their full capacity?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I am afraid it is not within the scope of the Commerce Department to go into this question. I cannot say for others.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: May I ask if the firm concerned, to which this special quota has been assigned, happens to be the Imperial Chemical Industries?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I have already said that it is not in the public interest to disclose the names of the firms to which licences have been issued. If I mention the name of one firm, I shall have to mention the names of other firms too. So, I am not prepared to tell my Honourable friend the name of this firm.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: The Honourable Member said that he had not got the information on one of the points mentioned by my Honourable friend in his capacity as the Commerce Member. May I know whether in his capacity as the Member for Industries he has any special responsibility in these matters?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I am going into that question in the Industries Department.

POLICY RE IMPORT OF CAPITAL EQUIPMENT

575. **Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari:** Will the Honourable the Commerce Member please state—

(a) the policy of the Government with regard to the import of capital equipment,

(b) the total number of applications and their aggregate value received for the import of capital equipment since the beginning of 1944, and

(c) the number of applications and their aggregate value to which permission has been accorded for import?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) The present policy of Government is to afford all facilities for the import of capital equipment required for industries producing goods which are considered essential by war-time standards. A press note, however, will issue shortly explaining the policy of Government regarding the import of post-war requirements of capital goods.

(b) and (c). The information asked for is not readily available and its collection would involve an amount of time and labour that would not be justifiable in war time.

PENALTIES FOR CONTRAVENTION OF SECTION 20, INSURANCE ACT

576. *Mr. T. Chapman-Mortimer: Will the Honourable the Commerce Member be pleased to state whether any penalty has been directed to be paid under section 102 of the Insurance Act, 1938, in respect of contravention of section 40 of the said Act during any of the years 1939 to 1944 (both inclusive), if so, how many?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: No one has been prosecuted between 1939 to 1944 under section 102 of the Insurance Act for contravention of section 40 of this Act. The second part of the question does not arise.

Mr. T. Chapman-Mortimer: Am I to understand from the reply of the Honourable Member that no proceedings have been instituted at any time under this or under any of the penal sections for contravention of section 40 of the Insurance Act?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: Not to my knowledge. I cannot say more than that.

DETERIORATED FOODGRAINS LYING IN GOVERNMENT GODOWNS AT HAJIGUNJ, ETC

577. *Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta: Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to state

(a) if it is a fact that 80,000 maunds of foodgrains have been lying in the Government godowns at Hajigunj, Narayanguj, Godnyle, etc., in a decomposed condition and unfit for human consumption,

(b) whether a notice has been issued by the Deputy Director, Civil Supplies, Region VI, Dacca to thirteen Hindu and seven Mus'm traders asking them to purchase the said foodgrains,

(c) if it is a fact that on their refusal to purchase the same on the ground that they are unfit for human consumption, notices have been served to them by the Deputy Director of Civil Supplies, Region VI, Dacca, to show cause as to why their license should not be cancelled, and

(d) if the Honourable Member has seen the press reports about this matter?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) No

(b) No

(c) No

(d) I have seen one such report and that I have found to be completely unreliable.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Is the Honourable Member in a position to give the correct version of this matter?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: The allegations, as I have said, are not reliable.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What is the correct position?

Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta: Is there absolutely no foundation whatsoever for this complaint?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: If the Honourable Member tables a question, I shall try to answer it.

Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta: The question is already there.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: That question has been answered.

Mr. T. S. Avnashilingam Chettiar: Have the Government made any enquiry? What is the correct version as regards the allegation whether they were forced to purchase?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: If the Honourable Member will table a question I will try to answer it

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: The question is already there

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I have answered it.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Have the Government of India got any special staff to examine the grain stores to see what portion of it is spoiled and to take necessary steps to see that the grains do not get further spoiled?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: The Government are always exercising vigilance

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Was any special staff detailed for this specific purpose?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I cannot catch what the Honourable Member says

Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta: I have put a specific question in part (b) whether a notice has been issued by the Deputy Director, Civil Supplies, to 13 Hindu and seven Muslim traders asking them to purchase the said foodgrains?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I have given an answer to it, saying, 'no'

Mr. K. C. Neogy: May I know if the Honourable Member's Department depends entirely on the Provincial Governments for making enquiries into these matters, or has he got any independent agency to find out the truth?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: As the Honourable Member knows, this was the responsibility of the Provincial Government

Mr. K. C. Neogy: That explains the position. You are merely acting as a post office

Mr. Sri Prakasa: If it is not a fact that 80,000 maunds of foodgrains have decomposed, may I know if 79,999 maunds of foodgrains have got decomposed? Surely he understands this, and he need not quibble about this

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: That too is not a fact

FALLOW LAND IN COASTAL BELT OF CONTAI SUB-DIVISION (MIDNAPUR)

578. *Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta: Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands be pleased to state

(a) if it is a fact that a vast area of 70 square miles in the coastal belt of Contai Sub-division in the district of Midnapur has remained fallow since the cyclone of October, 1942,

(b) if the said area is cultivable land and has always grown food crops,

(c) if it is a fact that it has remained fallow due to cumulative effects of cyclone particularly for want of agricultural labour, implements, cattle and seeds,

(d) if no steps have been taken by the Grow More Food Department of the Government to bring the said area under cultivation, and

(e) that this has caused a loss of Rs 48,00,000 annually to the ryots according to the estimate of local officials?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) A part of this area remained fallow during 1943. It is reported to have been fully cultivated during 1944

(b) Yes, the bulk of it has been used for raising food crops

(c) It remained fallow in 1943 owing to the shortage of labour and cattle. Owing to the destruction of houses, there was inadequate accommodation for labourers. Seed was supplied whenever required

(d) Steps were taken by the Provincial Government to rehabilitate cultivation and these have met with success in 1944. Action is being taken to bring in labour from the north of the district for harvesting operations

(e) No estimate of the loss in the value of production can be given

REFUSAL OF FACILITIES TO ALL INDIA WOMENS CONFERENCE FOR STUDYING THE CONDITION OF WOMEN IN COAL MINES

579. *Mrs. Ranuka Ray: Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state

(a) if it is a fact that the All-India Women's Conference approached the Government for facilities to send an investigation Committee for an impartial

study of women in coal mines and that on the 3rd May, the Government of India informed the aforesaid organization that there was no objection against such investigation, and the time was not suitable at present, and

(b) if it is a fact that subsequently on a repeated request from the All-India Women's Conference on the 26th May, the Government of India again refused the facilities and informed them that Government would let them know when the time was suitable and that upto now the All-India Women's Conference has not heard from the Government, what the causes are which led to this course of action?

The Honourable Dr. B. E. Ambedkar: (a) Yes

(b) The reply to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. The reasons were explained in the Government of India's letters to the President of the Conference

Mr. K. C. Neogy: May I know the reasons which led the Government to pass the order referred to in part (b)?

The Honourable Dr. B. E. Ambedkar: The time was not suitable

Mr. N. M. Joshi: What does the Government mean by saying that the time was not suitable?

The Honourable Dr. B. E. Ambedkar: I think the word 'suitable' is a very simple word. Everybody can understand it. I do not think I can further simplify it.

Mrs. Renuka Ray: Is it a fact that the Government allowed the Regge and the Health Survey Committees to go and investigate during the same period? Is it a fact that the All-India Women's organisation has not been given similar permission till now? If so, what is the basis for such differentiation? Why is it that a responsible body like the All-India Women's organisation who are interested in the welfare of women has not been allowed?

The Honourable Dr. B. E. Ambedkar: They are official bodies which were allowed.

Mrs. Renuka Ray: Is the Health Survey Committee an entirely official body?

The Honourable Dr. B. E. Ambedkar: Yes

Mrs. Renuka Ray: Are not the Members of the Legislature on that Committee?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) The Honourable Member is arguing.

Mr. T. S. Avinashlingam Chettiar: Why are women stopped from going into the mines and investigating? Why should Government consider that the time is not suitable only in the case of Women's organisation?

The Honourable Dr. B. E. Ambedkar: The Honourable Member can draw his own inference.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I ask whether it is not a fact that Government do not consider the time suitable because the conditions in the mines are so bad that they do not like investigation being made by an impartial body?

The Honourable Dr. B. E. Ambedkar: The Honourable Member is at liberty to draw his own inferences.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) Next question

SHORTAGE OF LABOUR IN COAL MINES DUE TO MALARIA

580. ***Mrs. Renuka Ray:** Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state

(a) if it is a fact that the shortage of labour in coal mines, particularly during the months of August and September was due to a large proportion of mining labour suffering from malaria and that no adequate treatment was possible due to the inadequate supply of quinine, and

(b) if the Honourable Member is aware of the fact that mining labour is suffering so acutely from the effects of diseases and mal-nutrition that this has seriously affected their efficiency, if so, what steps taken to remedy this are?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) The coal-mining labour is not immune to the seasonal incidence of malaria, but it is not correct to say that a large proportion of this labour suffered from the disease during August and September. The incidence of the disease per thousand of the average daily labour force employed in the Jharia Coalfield was 81 and 80 for the month of August in 1943 and 1944 respectively and 111 and 74 for the month of September in 1943 and 1944 respectively. Every effort is made to provide adequate facilities for treatment and sufficient supplies of quinine and its substitutes.

(b) It cannot be said that mining labour is suffering acutely from malnutrition. As regards their health all collieries employing 30 persons or more are required to maintain a dispensary and distribute medicines through their doctors. Coal Mines Labour Welfare Fund has recently been set up from which measures for prevention of disease in the mining population and improvement of medical facilities will be financed.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: With regard to the point about malnutrition, will the Honourable Member please make a statement as to whether it is not a fact and an admitted fact that apart from the shortage of labour in collieries, individual output of work has gone down due to malnutrition?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I am not certain about the facts mentioned by my Honourable friend.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Will the Honourable Member make an enquiry from the Honourable the Supply Member, who, I understand made a statement to this effect on a recent occasion when he met one of the Chambers of Commerce.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: There is no need for an enquiry as the Honourable Member seems to be in possession of the fact.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Will the Honourable Member convince himself about the truth of this position?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: Yes, I know there has been some fall in production, but I understood it was entirely due to the fact that there was lack of machinery.

Mrs. Renuka Ray: As the Honourable Member has told us about dispensaries in the different mines, will he kindly investigate and find out what the medical facilities are and how far the dispensaries are working and giving medicines in the mines at Ranigunj and Jharia? My information is that some of them cannot work because there are not enough medicines.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: As I said, it was because in the opinion of Government the facilities were not sufficient that Government established the Coal Mines Labour Welfare Fund.

CASES OF EMPLOYMENT OF CHILDREN ON UNDERGROUND WORK IN MINES

581. ***Mrs. Renuka Ray:** Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state

(a) if he is aware of the fact that there are a growing number of cases of violation of the Act prohibiting children in underground work in mines?

(b) if the answer is in the affirmative, what the steps taken to ensure the enforcement of the Act are, and

(c) if the answer is in the negative, will the Honourable Member kindly investigate the matter and take effective steps to put a stop to any such illegal practice that may prevail?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) No

(b) Does not arise

(c) Inspections are regularly made by the Officers of the Department of Mines to enforce the provisions of the Indian Mines Act regarding the prohibition of employment of children in mines and effective steps will be taken as a matter of course if any such illegal practice prevails anywhere.

Mrs. Renuka Ray: Is the Honourable Member aware that there is a growing number of cases of violation in some of the mines in Jharia and Ranigunj coalfields and that children of 14 and 15 are signed-up as adults and actually go down the mines? And what does the Honourable Member propose to do about it?

The Honourable Dr. B. E. Ambedkar: If the Honourable Member has any specific cases having reference to specific mines and will bring them to my notice, I will certainly take the matter up

UNDERGROUND WORK IN MINES BY PREGNANT WOMEN

582. *Mrs. Benuka Ray: Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state

(a) if he is aware of the fact that pregnant women usually work underground in mines until the ninth month and again a fortnight after child birth, and that in mines where maternity benefits are not given they work even longer?

(b) the steps Government have taken to stop pregnant women from working underground;

(c) if it is a fact that there have been a certain number of accidents to women working underground within the last year and there is no way of ascertaining how many of these accidents have occurred to pregnant women, and

(d) if it is a fact that maternity benefits are given only in some mines, what steps Government intend to take to make maternity benefits compulsory for all women working in mining areas?

The Honourable Dr. B. E. Ambedkar: (a) I am not aware of the basis for this allegation. Under section 3 of the Mines Maternity Benefit Act, employment of a woman for a period of four weeks following her confinement is prohibited. Further a woman is entitled to leave of absence for a period of one month before she expects to be delivered of a child. Inspections under this Act are regularly made by the Labour Inspectors under the Chief Inspector of Mines, all of whom are doctors, with a view to enforcing the provisions of the Act and the rules made thereunder.

(b) As already stated, pregnant women are entitled to leave of absence for a period of one month before the date of delivery, and the object of the employment of Labour Inspectors under the Chief Inspector of Mines is to make known to these women their rights under the Act and to assist them in securing the benefits of that Act.

(c) Yes, but no information of any of these women being pregnant has been received. During enquiries following accidents, the evidence of the colliery doctor is invariably recorded and if a woman were pregnant her condition would be disclosed and recorded.

(d) The Mines Maternity Benefit Act, 1941 applies to all mines in British India except:

(i) certain stone crushing plants forming part of mines in the province of Bombay;

(ii) iron ore mines worked without mechanical power, the whole of the ore from which is supplied locally to village smelters and blacksmiths; and

(iii) those mines in which excavation is being carried out for prospecting purposes only, provided not more than 20 persons are employed in or about such excavation and subject to certain other conditions.

It is not considered necessary to make maternity benefits compulsory in these small mines.

Mr. Lalchand Navarai: Have there actually been any cases of pregnant women having suffered?

The Honourable Dr. B. E. Ambedkar: Yes, there have been some.

Mr. Lalchand Navarai: When?

The Honourable Dr. B. E. Ambedkar: Since they started working. These accidents are often occurring in the coal mines.

Mrs. Benuka Ray: Will the Honourable Member tell us whether the best way of preventing pregnant women from going down the mines would not be to restore the ban on women working underground?

The Honourable Dr. B. E. Ambedkar: I entirely agree, provided the circumstances were propitious.

RESTORATION OF BAN ON WOMEN WORKING UNDERGROUND IN COAL MINES

583. *Mrs. Renuka Ray: Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state

(a) when the Government of India intend to restore the ban on women working underground in coal mines in view of their former promise, and

(b) how far the employment of women underground has increased coal raisings?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) The Government are most anxious to re-impose the ban as soon as production of coal reaches a figure which makes possible such re-imposition

(b) Coal raisings have increased appreciably as a result of the employment of women underground, but no exact figures can be given as other factors are in operation at the same time

Mrs. Renuka Ray: Is the Honourable Member aware that a very infinitesimal proportion represents the increased raisings helped by women working underground and does he consider that the violation of an international code and moral convention is compensated by the increased raisings that is due to women working in the mines even from the point of view of increased production?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: My information is to the contrary.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: May I know what is the target of production aimed at by Government in order to restore this ban?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I am unable to say

Mrs. Renuka Ray: Is the Honourable Member aware that the woman acts as loader underground and the man as cutter, and so the rate of progress of each tub is much slower because a woman cannot act as cutter, and the result is that the man has to rest, whereas the rate would be much faster

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) The Honourable Member is making a speech

Mrs. Renuka Ray: I should like to know if the Labour Member does not consider that the rate of progress of the work per tub is much slower because women work as loaders and cannot work as cutters

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I am glad to have that information, but I am passing no opinion either on the reliability of the statement or the feasibility of the suggestion

STAFF OF AND LEASES BY DELHI IMPROVEMENT TRUST.

584. *Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands be pleased to state

(a) the total number of persons serving under the Delhi Improvement Trust upward from Patwari to Land Officer and the number of Muslims under each category,

(b) whether it is the policy of the Government not to lease land taken from Muslims to Muslims,

(c) the necessary conditions upon which the lands are leased and if any concession in favour of the original proprietor of the acquired land is shown; if so, what its nature is,

(d) if any particular instruction has been issued by the Central Government to lease land in Delhi and whether any proportion of a particular community has been suggested,

(e) the number of leases executed by the Improvement Trust in Daryaganj in old Delhi and the number of leases granted to Muslims; and

(f) the total number of acquisitions of land made in Daryaganj up till now and the number of Muslims whose lands and buildings were acquired?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) A statement giving the required information is laid on the table

(b) and (c) I will supply the Honourable Member with Specimen form of the leases generally used by the Trust. Acquired lands are sold by the Trust

by auction or tender to the highest bidder or tenderer, and no question of showing any concession in favour of the original proprietor or to any particular community arises

(d) No

(e) 114 plots were leased by the Delhi Improvement Trust in Daryaganj. Among the successful bidders, 8 were Muslims

(f) No land has so far been acquired by the Trust from private persons in Daryaganj

*
Statement

Lands Officer 1 (Hindu)
Accounts Officer and Secretary to Chairman 1 (Muslim)
Tehsildar Nazul 1 (Hindu)
Architectural Assistant 1 (Hindu)
Office Superintendent 1 (Hindu)
Accountant 1 (Hindu)
Land Acquisition Naib Tahsildar 1 (Hindu)
Head Assistants 3 (two Hindus and one Muslim)
Steno to Chairman 1 (Hindu)
Steno to Lands Officer 1 (Muslim)
Senior Guide Clerks 4 (Two Hindus and Two Muslims)
Rent Collector (Clerk) 1 (Hindu)
Overseers 4 (Three Hindus and one Muslim)
Draftsman 2 (One Hindu and one Muslim)
Senior Accounts Clerk 3 (One Hindu, one Muslim and one Christian)
Cashier 1 (Hindu)
Tracers 2 (One Muslim and the other vacant)
Sanitary Inspector (Temporary) 1 (Hindu)
Clerks (including three temporary) 22 (14 Hindus, six Muslims and one Christian, one post vacant)
Routine Division Clerks (including one temporary) 10 (5 Hindus and 5 Muslims)
Typists 3 (One Hindu and two Muslims)
Girdwar 1 (Hindu)
Ferro-Printer 1 (Hindu)
Patwaris 9 (Six Hindus and three Muslims)

LAND OFFICER IN DELHI IMPROVEMENT TRUST

585. *Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands be pleased to state

(a) the normal period for the transfer of Land Officer in the Delhi Improvement Trust,

(b) the period of the present Land Officer in the Delhi Improvement Trust,

(c) when the Land Officer in Delhi Improvement Trust is expected to be transferred back to his original service in the Punjab, and

(d) if it is a fact that no Muslim Land Officer has ever been appointed in the Delhi Improvement Trust and the reasons therefor?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) No tenure has been fixed for the post of Lands Officer in the Delhi Improvement Trust

(b) Since the 3rd March 1937

(c) The reversion of the present incumbent of the post is not at present contemplated

(d) The present incumbent, a Hindu, is the first officer appointed to the post

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: How many extensions have been given to the present Land Officer in Delhi?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: As there is no tenure, no question of extension arises

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: What is his present age?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I shall require notice of that

POST OF LABOUR WELFARE OFFICER FOR GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESSES

586. *Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state

(a) whether the post of Labour Welfare Officers for the Government of India Presses was advertised; if so, when and how;

- (b) whether any selection has been made,
- (c) whether it is a fact that the post was reserved for a Muslim,
- (d) the number of persons who have been appointed as Assistant Labour Welfare Officers during the last two years, and
- (e) what their academic qualifications are and how many of them are Muslims?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) One posts of Labour Welfare Officer for the Government of India Presses has been sanctioned and it was advertised by the Federal Public Service Commission in the approved newspapers in June last. Applications were due to reach the office of the Commission by the 10th July.

(b) and (c). Yes

(d) One lady Assistant Welfare Adviser was appointed directly under Labour Department

(e) She is M A, M Litt, and is a Hindu

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Are these officers appointed for the Central Government presses or also for the provincial Government Presses?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: For the Central Government presses.

DEVELOPMENT OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL DEPARTMENT

587 *Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government intends to develop the Archaeological Department and recruitment is going to be made to train men for that purpose, and

(b) if the answer to (a) be in the affirmative, will he be pleased to lay on the table full particulars of such a scheme, explaining the requisite qualifications of candidates to be recruited?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) Proposals for the reorganisation of the Archaeological Survey have been received

(b) It is not proposed to lay them on the table of the House. The qualifications suggested vary with, and depend on the nature of the posts. For most officers of the higher grades, a University degree will be required, representing advanced study in history or languages, and practical experience in Archaeological work

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) The answer to the next three questions—588, 589 and 590—will be laid on the table as they are in excess of the Honourable Member's quota.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: Sir, I have asked only four questions

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) That does not matter. You were absent when the first question in your name could have been asked.

NON-SUPPLY OF SUJI AT DELHI RATION SHOPS

+588. *Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: Will the Honourable Member for Food please state

(a) why suji or rawa—wheat preparation—is not supplied to persons taking rations from Ration shops in Delhi, and

(b) what steps he intends to take to ensure such supplies in future?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) Supplies have been made when available but owing to limitations placed by the Punjab Government on the production of fine grain products it has not been possible hitherto to give a continuous supply.

(b) Action is being taken in consultation with the Punjab Government to ensure increased supplies.

+Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner having exhausted his quota.

STANDARD CLOTH OF INFERIOR QUALITY

†589. *Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies be pleased to state

(a) the quantity of standard cloth of inferior quality supplied by mill-owners,

(b) the time of detection,

(c) the steps taken to punish the wrong-doers,

(d) the names of the mills, together with the quantity of such cloth supplied by them, and

(e) the amount of loss incurred by Government in such transaction?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) 168 bales.

(b) Early in April last.

(c) A rebate was recovered representing the difference in value between the cloth as it was and as it should have been, and the Standard Cloth manufactured by these mills is now subject to pre-inspection by the Inspection staff

(d) The names of the mills and the quantities of defective cloth supplied by them were as follows

1 Birla Mills Ltd., Delhi—9 bales

2 Sutlej Cotton Mills, Okara—14 bales

3 Jiyajrao Cotton Mills, Gwalior—31 bales

4 Vijayalaxmi Cotton Mills, Cambay—73 bales

5 Dayalbagh Spinning and Weaving Mills, Amritsar—21 bales

6 Rajnagar Mills, Ahmedabad—15 bales

(e) Nil, as the rebates allowed to consumers by the Delhi Administration for the defective cloth supplied were fully covered by the rebate recovered from the mills

DIRECTORS, INSPECTORS, ETC. IN INDUSTRIES AND CIVIL SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT

†590. *Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies please to state

(a) the total number of (i) Directors, (ii) Assistant Directors, (iii) Inspectors and (iv) Assistant Inspectors employed in the Department of Industries and Civil Supplies,

(b) the number of (i) Graduates, (ii) Intermediate Arts and Intermediate Science, and (iii) Matriculates under each category in (a) of the question,

(c) the minimum period required for the training of officers in (a) above;

(d) the standard by which their efficiency is judged;

(e) the number of Inspectors and Assistant Inspectors posted at present in every province,

(f) the period for which the Department of Industries and Civil Supplies will continue; and

(g) the nature of the work entrusted to officers in part (a)?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I take it that the Honourable Member is referring to the Cotton Textile Directorate and the office of the Controller General of Civil Supplies under the Department of Industries and Civil Supplies. If so a statement giving the information required is laid on the table

Statement

(a) (i) Directors	7
(ii) Assistant Directors	24
(iii) Inspectors	61
(iv) Assistant Inspectors	74
(b) (i) Graduates.—	
(1) Directors	5
(2) Asst. Directors	13
(3) Inspectors	47
(4) Asst. Inspectors	59

†Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner having exhausted his quota.

(ii) <i>Intermediate Arts & Intermediate Science.</i> —	
(1) Directors	1
(2) Asst Directors	3
(3) Inspectors	4
(4) Asst Inspectors	7
(iii) <i>Matriculates</i> —	
(1) Directors	Nil.
(2) Asst Directors	7
(3) Inspectors	5
(4) Asst. Inspectors	6
(iv) <i>With Technical Qualifications.</i> —	
(1) Director	1
(v) <i>Non Matriculates</i> —	
(1) Assistant Director	1
(2) Inspector	1
(vi) There are four Inspectors and two Assistant Inspectors who are retired Government servants and their educational qualifications are not readily available	
(c) There is no training period for Directors and Assistant Directors Inspectors and Assistant Inspectors of Civil Supplies, before being posted to any mofussil stations are given training or a period of about two or three weeks at the headquarters of the Regional Deputies Controller Generals of Civil Supplies	
(d) Promptness, accuracy of decision on matters entrusted, integrity and general suitability.	
(e) <i>Bombay.</i> —	
(1) Inspectors	18
(2) Assistant Inspectors	24
<i>Central Provinces and Berar.</i> —	
(1) Inspector	1
(2) Assistant Inspectors	4
<i>Punjab</i> —	
(1) Inspectors	8
(2) Assistant Inspectors	11
<i>Sind</i> —	
(1) Inspectors	4
(2) Assistant Inspectors	2
<i>N. W. F. P.</i> —	
(1) Inspector	1
<i>United Provinces.</i> —	
(1) Inspectors	6
(2) Assistant Inspectors	5
<i>Bengal</i> —	
(1) Inspectors	11
(2) Assistant Inspectors	18
<i>Assam</i> —	
(1) Inspector	1
<i>Madras</i> —	
(1) Inspectors	6
(2) Assistant Inspectors	4
<i>Bihar</i> —	
(1) Inspectors	2
(2) Assistant Inspectors	2
<i>Orissa</i> —	
(1) Inspector	1
(2) Assistant Inspector	1
<i>Baluchistan</i> —	
(1) Assistant Inspector	1
<i>Delhi</i> —	
(1) Inspectors	2
(2) Assistant Inspectors	2
(f) If the reference is to the organisation of the Controller General of Civil Supplies then it will continue for as long as it may be necessary.	
(g) (1) <i>Directors</i> are the executive heads and are responsible for smooth and efficient running of the sections under them. They are entrusted with more responsible work within their sphere of duties than the Assistant Directors	
(2) <i>Assistant Directors.</i> Less important work than the Directors.	
(3) <i>Inspectors and Assistant Inspectors.</i> —	
(a) to act as intelligence and investigating officers in matters connected with articles falling under the Hoarding & Profiteering Prevention Ordinance, 1943.	
(b) to act as Inspectors under the Removal of Factories Ordinance.	

RESTRICTIONS ON SLAUGHTER OF CATTLE

†591. *Bhai Parmanand: Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands be pleased to state:

†Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner being absent.

(a) if it is a fact that by a Notification No 1607, dated the 12th July, 1941, the Government of India placed restrictions on the slaughter of cattle and directed the Provincial Governments to follow them,

(b) the Provincial Governments which have acted upon that notification and which have not; and if the Government propose to direct such Provincial Governments to follow the notification, and

(c) the number of cattle that have been carried from North Western Railway stations and Bombay, Baroda and Central India from the Punjab?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) The communication referred to is not a notification but only a letter in which the Government of India have announced the restrictions agreed to by the Army authorities on the slaughter of useful cattle, and have asked the Provincial Governments to issue similar instructions

(b) Seven provinces, viz., Madras, Bombay, Bihar, Orissa, the United Provinces, the Central Provinces and Assam have issued orders under the Defence of India Rules prohibiting the slaughter of useful cattle; the others have the matter under their consideration, and in the meantime in one other province, viz., Bengal, two meatless days a week have been introduced.

(c) Government have no information and its collection will entail an expenditure of time, labour and money which would not be justified by the results

PURCHASES OF JUTE PRODUCTS BY SOUTH AFRICA

592. *Mr. K. S. Gupta: (a) Will the Honourable the Commerce Member furnish the following figures for the purchases of jute products by South Africa from India in the years 1942-43 and up to the 1st November, 1944?

(b) Were all the purchases exported to South Africa?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) and (b) I have no information about the purchases made in India for the purpose of export to South Africa. Nor am I in a position to say whether the goods purchased with this object in view were actually exported to South Africa

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Were these purchases by South Africa being made at the world price parity prevailing for jute, or at any concessional rate that the Government of India might have fixed?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I have said, I have no information about any purchases made in India for South Africa.

DISSATISFACTION OVER PROCEDURE FOR ASSESSING ARECA NUT CESS

593. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands be pleased to state if he is aware that

(a) the Malabar Areca nut producers and dealers are discontented with the procedure adopted by Government in assessing the Areca nut cess and in collecting it;

(b) the objections he has to lower the cess in proportion to the normal price of the nuts;

(c) if he is aware that usually 25 per cent of the stock gets spoiled during the process of preservation and if so, whether he is prepared to reduce the incidence of the cess to a corresponding degree or not;

(d) the objections he has to impose the cess in proportion to the weight of the kernel of the nut, that is, excluding the husk;

(e) if he is prepared to collect the cess from the wholesale dealers, and, if not, why not; and

(f) if he is prepared to order a departmental enquiry into the above matter and other grievances of the producers concerned as stated in their printed representation (enclosed herewith)?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: The question should have been addressed to the Honourable the Finance Member who will reply on the 21st November 1944.

APPLICATIONS FOR HAJ PILGRIMAGE

†594. *Sir Abdul Halim Ghumanvi: Will the Honourable Member for Commonwealth Relations please state:

†Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner being absent.

(a) the total number of applications for Haj Pilgrimage received this year province wise and how many of them have been rejected,

(b) the number of Haj pilgrims who returned from Karachi though they were issued cards;

(c) the number of Haj pilgrims who arrived at Karachi on or before the 30th September, 1944, how many of them were provided with accommodation on board the ships and how many of them have been disappointed and detained at Karachi for the second sailing;

(d) if the Government are prepared to pay compensation to those pilgrims who have been disappointed and detained till second sailing, if not, why not;

(e) the total sum forfeited by the Government for failure on the part of pilgrims to reach Karachi port by the specified date or for other reasons; and

(f) the total income of the Government by way of money order commission, registration fees, postage and telegraph charges paid by the intending applicants?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khars: (a) Information is being collected

(b) None except those who might have voluntarily decided not to go

(c) The number of pilgrims who arrived and were provided with accommodation cannot be disclosed at present for security reasons. All those who arrived were booked and none was disappointed.

(d) No Pilgrims who were left behind arrived after the prescribed date.

(e) Nil

(f) The Government do not consider it necessary to collect the information as the time and labour involved would not be commensurate with its importance

BUFFALOES AND COWS PURCHASED FOR MILITARY FARMS

†595. ***Bhai Parmanand:** Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands be pleased to state:

(a) the number of buffaloes and their calves and the number of cows and their calves respectively, purchased from 1st October, 1941 to 30th September, 1944 for the requirements of Military Farms in India,

(b) the number of calves both male and female destroyed, and the number of those that were supplied to the Supply Department in order to provide veal to the American, European and other troops, during the said period;

(c) the number of calves both male and female preserved and reared, during the same period;

(d) the number of calves both male and female that were born during the said period, and what became of them, namely the number of those destroyed, those supplied to the Supply Department and those preserved and reared;

(e) if the Government is aware of the fact that in recent years and particularly during the War period a great economic need for the preservation of cattle has been felt, if so, how the practice of destroying or slaughtering of a large number of calves will effect the said economic situation;

(f) if the Government is aware of the fact that the market price of the cattle has enormously increased in recent years and the act of destruction and slaughter of the young cattle will worsen the position;

(g) whether the Government has, in continuing the practice of the destruction and the slaughter of the calves taken into consideration the needs of the agriculturists and the feelings of the Hindus; and

(h) whether the Government intends to stop the practice of the destruction and slaughter of the young cattle?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) Between 1st October 1941 and 30th September 1944 the Military Farms Department purchased about 48,000 buffaloes, mostly with calves, and about 500 cows.

(b), (c) and (d). Detailed statistics required to answer parts (b) to (d) are not available. All female cow calves and all female buffaloes calves from dams giving an economic yield are reared by Military Farms. The number of young stock at present being reared on Military Farms is approximately 6,000. Calves unwanted by the Military Farms are given away for rearing, and only

†Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner being absent

when no other disposal is possible they are destroyed. The number issued for veal has not been more than a few hundreds and the rearing of calves for veal has been discontinued. Provinces have been informed that the Military Farms Department have a number of calves available for disposal and have been requested to state whether they can take them over for rearing. Two enquiries have already been received.

(e) The Government of India are aware of the need for the preservation of all useful cattle. The effect of the slaughter of calves on the economic situation will depend on whether the animals are useful or otherwise.

(f) Government are aware of the increase in the market price of useful cattle. There is no reason to suppose that the non-rearing of stock which will not be economically useful will worsen the present position.

(g) The needs of agriculturists are borne in mind when deciding the policy to be adopted. Government have to consider the feelings not of one section of the community but of all.

(h) The question how to make effective the prohibition against the slaughter of useful young stock is under examination.

PROPOSAL TO REMOVE ANTIQUITIES OF NAGARJUNAKONDA

596. *Mr. K. S. Gupta: Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state

(a) if there is any proposal to remove the antiquities of Nagarjunakonda in Guntur District, the biggest single area in this country to yield Buddhist relics, if so, why,

(b) whether the Government of India realise the loss of historical and natural setting by excavating the relics and removing them from the place of finding;

(c) if it is not a fact that the excavations though on a limited scale, bring to light the existence of the capital of a dynasty that held sway over East Andhra in the third century;

(d) if the Government of India is aware of the agitated feelings of Andhras about the proposal to remove them to a museum—perhaps to Calcutta,

(e) whether the Government of India intend to promote the historical scholarship by commencing a new series of excavations, at the site than to remove the relics already found, and

(f) if the Government will acquire the site in trust for the nation as is so frequently done in Britain?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) The Government of India have no such proposal under consideration.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The remains excavated relate to the Buddhist period. I am not in a position to give more detailed information regarding the archaeological interpretation of the material excavated.

(d) Government are aware that there is some local feeling against removal.

(e) No new excavation at Nagarjunakonda is at present contemplated.

(f) The site is protected under the Ancient Monuments Preservation Act. The question whether it is necessary and practicable to acquire the site will be considered.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable Member be pleased to state what he has said in a letter that the recent removal of some of the finds from that place is only a temporary thing, and all those finds are expected to be sent back to Nagarjunakonda and are not expected to be permanently transferred to Madras?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: Yes, Sir. As I have informed the Honourable Member, Professor Ranga, it has been ascertained that the local Superintendent has arranged for the removal of a number of small antiquities temporarily to Madras for exhibition at the forthcoming History Congress. This is in accordance with the ordinary practice of making arrangements for selected archaeological exhibits of great interest to be on view at exhibitions held in connection with meetings of bodies which are interested in archaeology, and it is the intention that these antiquities, which have been or are being removed temporarily

to Madras, shall be returned to Nagarjunakonda as soon as the History Congress is over and transport arrangements can be made.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Government consider the advisability of getting back as many of the Amraoti finds as possible which are kept in the London Museum.

Mr. J. D. Tyson: That will no doubt be considered

PROPOSAL TO REMOVE ANTIQUITIES OF NAGARJUNAKONDA

597. *Mr. K. S. Gupta: Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state

(a) if the Government of India is aware of the fact that the marble sculptures unearthed at Nagarjunakonda belong to the later Amaravati School and constitutes the pride of Andhradesa;

(b) if the Government of India is also aware of the fact that Nagarjunakonda is now a pilgrim centre visited by numerous batches of the public from far and near and by teachers and students of all the colleges in the Andhra area and that the proposal to remove them alarms the scholars and the public;

(c) if the Government of India is further aware that the public of Andhradesa apprehends that the marbles of Nagarjunakonda will share the same fate as those of Amaravati since the best part of the Amaravati collection was taken to London,

(d) if it is not a fact that the Government have already presented the tooth relic of the Buddha discovered at Nagarjunakonda to the Mahabodhi society and intend to distribute the other antiquities of Nagarjunakonda, all at the expense of the Andhras,

(e) if the Government of India is aware of the protest by such responsible bodies as Andhra Maha Sabha, Guntur District, Andhra Maha Sabha Teachers and Students Associations of Andhradesa, and

(f) if in view of the above facts the Government of India would abandon the idea of removing them and publish their decision at the earliest opportunity to allay the agitated feelings of Andhras?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) Government are aware that the sculptures relate to an important stage of the Buddhist period

(b), (c), and (e). Government are aware that the site has been visited by teachers and students and others interested. They are also aware that there is some local feeling against the removal of the finds from Nagarjunakonda and that some local organisations have sent protests to the Archaeological Department

(d) It is understood that a relic of Lord Buddha discovered at Nagarjunakonda was presented to the Mahabodhi Society some time ago to be enshrined for worship by the Buddhists. No proposals to distribute the other antiquities discovered at Nagarjunakonda are under consideration

(f) The Government of India are not considering any proposal to remove the finds from Nagarjunakonda

Prof. N. G. Ranga: With regard to part (f), there is a specific question, namely whether the Government of India would abandon the idea of removing them?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: It has not been seriously considered at all. I am not prepared to say that they will abandon the idea, therefore, but in any case they would not remove them all. There would in any case be left a representative collection of finds at the site. The matter has hardly been considered at all yet

BAD SANITATION OF DELHI-SHAHDARA MUNICIPALITY

598. *Mr. Kailash Bihari Lal: Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state:

(a) if the reports about the bad sanitation arrangements of the Delhi-Shahdara Municipality have reached the Government and if there is a general discontent about the same; and

(b) whether the Government propose to institute an enquiry about the matter?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: The information has been called for and a reply will be furnished to the House when it is received

SUGAR AND GUR IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF DELHI-SHAHJHARA

599..*Mr. Kailash Bihari Lal: Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to state—

(a) how much gur and sugar came to Delhi-Shahjdra from the United Provinces over which the terminal tax was charged,

(b) how much gur and sugar were exported from Delhi-Shahjdra to Delhi and other places;

(c) if it is a fact that the quantity of sugar and gur that went out of Delhi-Shahjdra is more than what appears to have come to Delhi-Shahjdra from the terminal tax account; and

(d) if the answer to (c) above be in the affirmative, what the reasons can be for the discrepancy and who would be responsible for the loss of terminal tax?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: An inquiry has been made from the Delhi Administration and the information, when received, will be laid on the table of the House

STATISTICS RE PRIVATE NEWSPAPER OWNERS AND THEIR EMPLOYEES

600. *Mr. Kailash Bihari Lal: Will the Honourable Member for Labour be pleased to state

(a) if the Government have obtained any statistics about the number of private newspapers owners and the persons employed by them, and

(b) if the answer to (a) be in the negative, do the Government propose to obtain the statistics with a view to afford relief to such employees with regard to (i) rules of leave, (ii) list of holidays, (iii) grades of salaries and (iv) dearness allowance?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) No

(b) The Labour Investigation Committee is collecting general information regarding the terms and conditions of employees in printing presses. The question as to what additional information should be collected and as to the feasibility of legislating to govern the conditions of employees of newspaper organisations will be considered in due course

Mr. Kailash Bihari Lal: May I know if Government can at least obtain the figures regarding Delhi Printing Press?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I think it would be better to wait in order to know what the Labour Investigation Committee is doing in this matter

Mr. Kailash Bihari Lal: Delhi is a small area of which the Honourable Member can get

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) The Honourable Member is arguing. Next question.

EXTENSIONS OF SERVICE IN GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS, ALIGARH

601. *Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kasmi: Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state:—

(a) whether it is a fact that extension after extension in service is allowed in many cases in the Government of India Press, Aligarh;

(b) whether it is a fact that every year the Manager of that Press recommends a lot of cases of extension to the Controller of Printing and Stationery in India;

(c) whether it is a fact that fully trained and qualified men are available in that Press to work in the places of these men whose extension has been recommended by the Manager and who are on the verge of retirement;

(d) whether it is a fact that the claims of some of the qualified men for the posts of these retiring hands have been blocked due to these recommendations for extension in service; and

(e) if the answers to (a) to (d) be in the affirmative, has the Honourable Member considered the advisability of issuing instructions to the effect that no further extension be granted in future under any circumstances?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) and (b) No Only a few cases are recommended

(c) In some cases qualified men are available, in others not

(d) No

(e) Does not arise

Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kasmi: Do I understand that the answer to part (a) of the question is in the negative, and he has not been recommending any extensions whatsoever?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I said, only a few cases are recommended

Qazi Muhammad Ahmed Kasmi: Has the General Manager been granting any extensions, or not?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: The Manager has been granting extensions

Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kasmi: May I know why these extensions are granted when qualified persons are available?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I am not prepared to admit that extensions are granted notwithstanding that qualified persons are available

Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kasmi: I understood the Honourable Member to say that sometimes extensions are granted even when qualified persons are available

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: Yes, in a very few cases.

Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kasmi: May I know the reason for which extensions are granted to people even under those circumstances?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I understand that the general reason why these extensions are granted in the cases referred to by my Honourable friend are entirely governed by the fact that some people lose their pensions if they are not given a year or two's extension

Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kasmi: Is that the only reason, or is there some other reason also?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I am not aware of any other reason

Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kasmi: Will the Honourable be pleased to enquire whether the extensions that were given in the cases referred to were solely for this reason or for some other reason?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I have made enquiries and that is the information I have

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: May I know the names of persons included in those 'few cases'?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I have no names of persons, but I have a certain number of cases before me

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: What community do they belong to?

(No reply.)

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) Next question

TIME SCALE OF PAY FOR BINDERS AND WAREHOUSEMEN OF GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS, NEW DELHI

602. ***Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kasmi:** Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of India has sanctioned the Time Scale of pay for which the Binders and warehousemen of the Government of India Press, New Delhi, had been representing;

(b) whether it is a fact that these people have been representing their case for this purpose for the last fifteen years approximately:

(c) whether it is a fact that some warehousemen who have been serving for the last fifteen and twenty years and whose pay is only Rs 25 per month at present, are not benefited at all by this Time Scale of pay at present;

(d) whether it is a fact that not a single increment has been sanctioned to any man immediately, and

(e) if the answers to (a) to (d) be in the affirmative, will the Honourable Member please consider the advisability of sanctioning at least one increment to all Binders and warehousemen just at the time of introducing the Time Scale of pay so that some immediate relief may be gained by these men who have been waiting for the last so many years?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) Yes

(b) Yes, for some time past

(c) Yes, but they will be benefited as soon as they earn their next increment

(d) Yes, because no increment has been yet earned since the 22nd June 1944 when the Time Scale came into force

(e) No action as proposed is necessary, as the men will earn their increments next year

Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi: Will the Honourable Member be pleased to consider that some persons will be on the verge of retirement and will not be able to get any benefit from this time-scale. Isn't it proper in such cases for the Government to give them some increment in lieu of their past services?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I do not think it is prudent to alter the law in order to meet hard cases!

PROHIBITION OF BURIALS IN CERTAIN MUSLIM GRAVEYARDS OF DELHI

603. *Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi: Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands be pleased to state —

(a) whether it is a fact that the burial of dead bodies in old Muslim graveyards, viz, Qabristan Mehndian and Chausath Khamba, has been prohibited under orders of Government,

(b) if it is or is it not a fact that there were till recently no residential buildings within a radius of about half a mile from these graveyards,

(c) if it is or is it not a fact that even now there are 1½ buildings whatsoever, on the eastern side of these graveyards,

(d) the reason of the prohibition of the burial of dead bodies in these graveyards,

(e) whether Government is aware of the fact that great resentment prevails among old Muslim residents of Delhi for their being deprived of the privilege to bury their deads in those graveyards in the vicinity of the shrines and graves of eminent religious heads;

(f) if the prohibition is based on the ground that around the aforesaid graveyards, Government buildings have been built, and state why the graveyards have been in similar circumstances allowed to be built in New Delhi for the Europeans and other communities, who enjoy the privilege of burying their deads therein, and

(g) whether Government have considered the advisability of reconsidering the cases of the Muslim grave-yards referred to in clause (a) above and allow the Muslims to renew the burial of their deads on such conditions as may be deemed necessary to meet the sanitary requirements?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: The necessary information has been called for and will be laid on the table of the House when received

CATEGORIES OF TITLES* FOR INDIAN NATIONALS

604. *Mr. Sri Prakasa: (a) Will the Honourable the Leader of the House kindly give a list of titles, both English and Indian, that are or can be bestowed on Indian nationals?

(b) Are any titles reserved for particular communities and bestowed on members of those communities only?

(c) Is it a fact that the titles of Khan Bahadur and Rai Bahadur, on the one hand, and those of Khan Sahib and Rai Sahib, on the other, are of equal

status, and that the titles of Khan Bahadur and Khan Sahib are given to Muslims and Parsis, and those of Rai Bahadur and Rai Sahib to Hindus and Indian Christians? Why is this distinction maintained?

(d) How many muslims, at present, have the title of Raja, and how many Hindus that of Nawab?

(e) Is there any publication by Government which gives a description of the medals, cloths, sashes, swords, etc., that the recipients of various titles are entitled to decorate themselves with, and what portions of these does a title holder receive as free gifts from Government and for what do they have to pay themselves?

(f) Under what budget head is the expenditure on titles provided?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: (a) A list of titles is laid on the table

(b) There are some titles which are usually granted to members of particular communities

(c) The answer to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. The distinction mentioned is based on well-established usage and custom

(d) The information is not readily available

(e) There is no such government publication. The insignia of the Orders of Knighthood and the Indian titles consist of sashes or ribbons and badges or stars. These are given free by Government except the Knight-Bachelor Badge which recipients purchase through the Imperial Society of Knights-Bachelor. The recipients of literary and medical titles receive *khillats* which are presented by Government.

(f) Expenditure in this respect is provided for under the head "Staff, Household and Allowances of the Governor-General."

List of Titles, both English and Indian, that are or can be bestowed on India

1 GCB	19 Raja
2 KCB	20 Begum
3 GCSI	21 Rani
4 KCSI	22 Shams-ul-Ulama
5 GCIE	23 Mahamahopadhyaya
6 KCIE	24 Hazik-ul-Mulk
7 GCVO	25 Diwan Bahadur
8 KCVO	26 Sardar Bahadur
9 GBE	27 Khan Bahadur
10 KBE	28 Rai Bahadur
11 Knight Bachelor	29 Rao Bahadur
12 Maharajadhiraja	30 Shifa-ul-Mulk
13 Maharaja Bahadur	31 Vaidyaratna
14 Maharaja	32 Chikitsakratna
15 Maharani	33 Sardar Sahib
16 Nawab Bahadur	34 Khan Sahib
17 Raja Bahadur	35 Rai Sahib
18 Nawab	36 Rao Sahib

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Is the List so large that it cannot be read out to the House?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: Thirty-six designations are given there!

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Are they arranged in order of merit?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) Next question.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: I really want to know because there are many people interested in them.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim). Next question.

TITLES, ETC. CARRYING FINANCIAL BENEFIT

605. Mr. Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable the Leader of the House please state:

(a) if it is a fact that the insignia of the titles and honours have to be sent back to Government by the family of the persons receiving them after their death;

(b) if there is any financial payment made to persons receiving the Victoria Cross; and whether this payment is continued to the family in the case of its posthumous award;

(c) the titles, if any, which carry any financial payment with them; if so, what the amount paid with each is; and

(d) under what budget head these payments are provided for?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: (a) Except in the following cases the insignia need not be returned on the recipient's death

G.C.B. (Collar and Collar Badge only)

G.C.S.I.

K.C.S.I.

C.S.I.

G.C.I.E.

K.C.I.E.

C.I.

G.C.V.O. (Collar only); and

G.B.E. (Collar only)

(b) A monetary allowance is granted to recipients of the Victoria Cross but Commissioned Officers other than V.C.O.s are not entitled to it. On the death of the recipient of the Victoria Cross the monetary allowance is continued to his widow until her re-marriage or death.

(c) The literary titles of Shams-ul-Ulama and Mahamahopadhyaya both carry an annual pension of Rs 100.

(d) These payments are included under the Demand "Miscellaneous" (*vide* Demands for Grants for 1944-45, *see* page 208)

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Who meets the expenses for the return of these Insignia?

Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kasmi: Are the Insignia and Titles granted free to the recipients or is anything charged for them?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: That has been answered. I am sure my Honourable friend was not listening.

(Mr. Kazmi and Mr. Deshmukh stood up)

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) Order, order. Mr. Deshmukh.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: May I know whether, in case the widow dies and has not, in her short life time been able to enjoy the pension, and she leaves behind small children, the monetary allowance is continued and if not will it be continued to the children?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: It is not continued.

(At this stage several Honourable Members stood up)

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) Mr. Sri Prakasa

Mr. Sri Prakasa: In view of the fact that the Honourable Member has read out a large number of the letters of the alphabet in connection with these Titles, will he please enlarge them so that we may fully understand their significance and hear their resounding sounds!

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: I will leave that to the Honourable Member.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) Next question

RESTRICTION ON SIZE OF NOTE PAPER FOR PRIVATE CORRESPONDENCE

606. *Mr. Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies please state:

(a) if it is a fact that some Provincial Governments have imposed a restriction on the size of note paper to be used for correspondence by private individuals;

(b) if it is not a fact that a good lot of stationery sold by the Legislative Department is larger than the prescribed size;

(c) if Government got an exemption for the use of such stationery from the Provincial Governments concerned;

(d) the sizes laid down in various Provinces; and

(e) if Government propose to advise Provincial Governments to withdraw their orders against the use of note paper of above particular size in private correspondence?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) No, but the Paper Control (Economy) Order, 1944, issued by the Central Government lays down the maximum permissible size of letter paper as 63 square inches.

(b) There is a small balance of the stock of letter paper having an area greater than 63 square inches, from earlier supplies. This is supplied to the members of the Indian Legislatures if specifically asked for.

(c) Does not arise

(d) In all Provinces the maximum permissible size is 63 square inches.

(e) Does not arise

Mr. Sri Prakasa: May I know why this mystic figure of 63 square inches has been fixed? It is really a most inconvenient size and will the Honourable Member show us what a piece of paper of 63 square inches will actually look like?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: My friend can see any ordinary letter paper nowadays and he will find it is 63 square inches. We have had to give some figure and any figure would have been criticised by my friend as mystic (Several Honourable Members including Mr. Sri Prakasa stood up)

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Order, order. Mr. Sri Prakasa

Mr. Sri Prakasa: What happens to the old stocks in our possession?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: They have been permitted

DEVELOPMENT OF MAHANADI PROJECTS IN ORISSA

607. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state

(a) if he is aware that Sir M. Visveewaraya Committee's report on Mahanadi to stop the ravages of floods in Orissa has suggested the development of Mahanadi projects and a system of irrigation canals to irrigate huge areas of land in Cuttack, Sambalpur, Puri and Balasore Districts,

(b) if such a scheme was estimated to cost about rupees four crores in 1938-39, and

(c) whether Government of India will consider the advisability of taking the initiative and developing that scheme, in view of the financial disabilities of the subvention province of Orissa and also of the great need of India for more rice production?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) and (b) No Information on the subject has been called for

(c) Government cannot give such an assurance at this stage without a careful examination of the scheme

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is Government prepared to examine this scheme carefully?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: Yes

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will it form part of the investigations of one of the various sub-committees or the National Planning structure of committees?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I cannot say as regards the procedure that Government should adopt. But I shall examine the thing.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Thank you

STEPS FOR PROPER UTILIZATION OF FUND FOR 'GROW MORE FOOD CAMPAIGN'

608. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Secretary for Education, Health, and Lands be pleased to state:

(a) the steps which are being taken by the Government of India to ensure that Provincial Governments and other agencies which are entrusted with the administration and utilisation of fund for the Grow More Food campaign are being properly and effectively utilised; and

(b) whether they will consider the advisability of constituting Food Committees with non-official peasant majorities, district by district, under whose direction the policy of Grow More Food may be executed, in accordance with local conditions and with the least wastage?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) Reports on the progress of the 'Grow More Food Schemes' sanctioned by the Government of India are received at stipulated intervals from the Provincial Governments concerned and examined by the Staff of the Department, with the idea that if anything is found unsatisfactory in a report the matter may be brought to the notice of the Government concerned. Some of the officers of the Department also tour the Provinces to examine the working of the various schemes on the spot and more attention will be paid to this aspect when the Department is fully manned.

(b) The suggestion that Provincial Governments should constitute district associations consisting of representatives of the interests concerned to assist in the development of the 'Grow More Food Campaign' has already been made to them.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will Government see to the advisability of publishing yearly or half-yearly reports of the progress of the 'Grow More Food Campaign' in the provinces and supplying them to the Members of this House?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: We will consider that.

DAMAGE TO TOBACCO CROP BY A PARASITE

609. ***Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands be pleased to state:

(a) if the tobacco crop is now being affected by a parasite known as orobanché or tokra and that it does considerable damage to the crop,

(b) if he is aware that the Guntur Tobacco Growers Association has announced a prize of Rs 8,000 for the successful method of eradication of this parasite within the reach of cultivators, and

(c) if Government have taken or propose to take any effective steps in the way of setting apart some research workers for this important and urgent problem?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) Yes

(b) Government are aware of the prize announced by the Guntur Tobacco Marketing Committee but not of any prize announced by the Tobacco Growers' Association

(c) Provision has been made for research on this important problem in the All-India Tobacco Research Scheme which is under the consideration of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Has work been started?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I should think not, because it is not clear whether the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research has yet passed orders on the scheme.

HAJ PILGRIMS

610. ***Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Salt:** Will the Honourable Member for Commonwealth Relations please state:

(a) the number of Haj pilgrims for whom sailings were arranged this year;

(b) the number of pilgrims who applied with the necessary amount of money for the passage;

(c) the number who actually left Karachi and the number of ships carrying them, with the dates of the sailing of each ship and the number of pilgrims thereon;

(d) if he is aware that notifications were issued by the Department on the occasion of both the sailings, asking intending pilgrims who have remitted the money, to reach Karachi before a given date with the money order receipts and acknowledgment coupons even if they have not received their reservation cards;

(e) if it is a fact that a large number of such people who reached Karachi in response to the above notification were left behind on both the occasions;

(f) how many were left behind on each occasion;

(g) if the Honourable Member has seen the statement of the Honourable Mr. Gasdar published in the *Dawn*, dated the 2nd November, 1944, that 600 intending pilgrims were left in Karachi;

(h) if it is a fact that there was enough room for these remaining pilgrims in the ships but they were refused accommodation because of the interference of Naval Authorities;

(i) whether military personnel was also carried in these ships, if so, the percentage of space occupied by them, and

(j) in view of the very strong sentiment that obtains among Muslims, whether the Honourable Member would take immediate steps to arrange for the embarkation of the stranded pilgrims? If not, why not?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: (a) (b) and (c). For reasons of security the information asked for cannot be disclosed

(d) Yes

(e) No

(f) The number of those pilgrims who came after the prescribed date is being ascertained

(g) Yes

(h) No. On the other hand more than the originally prescribed number of pilgrims was permitted to be carried.

(i) No

(j) No pilgrims are now at the port of embarkation. The question does not therefore arise

Seth Yusuf Abdoolah Haroon: As I understand the Honourable Member's answer to (d), is it a fact that these pilgrims who spent lots of money came down to Karachi but they have not received back their money. Who is responsible for the return of their fares?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: I have no information. If the Honourable Member puts in a question I will reply.

Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kasmi: When the tickets and passes were issued, was there any idea as to the space that would be available in the ship and was that not considered before issuing these tickets and passes?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: So far as I know nobody has been left behind who came before the proper date.

Seth Yusuf Abdoolah Haroon: Is it a fact that there was lack of efficiency and co-operation between the India Haj Committee and the Government organization there?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: No, Sir, On the contrary, Sir, I will read to the House an extract from a private letter of a Haj Pilgrim an educated Muslim to his relatives in India from Kamaran. It says, "Arrangements made by the benign Government for all pilgrims from all districts are praiseworthy and excellent"

Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kasmi: Has the Honourable Member read the statement of an ex-Member of this House Khan Bahadur Haj Wajhuddin to the effect that though he was at Karachi a few days before and made his best efforts to ascertain the time of the arrival of the steamer, it was only about half an hour or an hour before the steamer actually left that he came to know of that fact?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: I have already given the answer to that question

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Salt: In reply to part (a) of my question the Honourable Member has said that for security reasons the information asked for cannot be disclosed. I want to call the attention of the Honourable Member to the fact that I have only asked what is the number of pilgrims for whom sailings were arranged this year: where does the question of security enter into it at all?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: I cannot add anything to what I have already said

Seth Yusuf Abdoolah Haroon: Will the Honourable Member give the number of pilgrims left behind at Karachi?

(No answer).

(b) WRITTEN ANSWERS

ARRANGEMENTS FOR SUPPLY OF RICE TO COLLIERY LABOUR IN BIHAR

611. *Mr. K. O. Neogy: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Labour be pleased to explain in detail the arrangements that are in operation in the province of Bihar in the matter of supplying rice to colliery labour?

(b) Has the Honourable Member received any complaint that the Bihar authorities are charging some of the collieries prices for rice to be supplied to their labour force which are higher than the control prices and that the quality of rice supplied is also bad? If so, what are the different points raised in these complaints, and what are the ascertained facts relating thereto?

(c) How does the system in Bihar in this matter differ from the system introduced in the Bengal collieries?

(d) What action do Government propose to take to remove the complaints made on behalf of a section of the Bihar collieries in this matter?

The Honourable Dr. B. B. Ambedkar: (a) Under an order issued by the Additional Deputy Commissioner, Dhanbad, under the Defence of India Rules dated the 20th April 1944, every colliery worker is entitled to buy from the colliery shop at prices equal to the controlled prices fixed by the Additional Deputy Commissioner, an amount of foodgrains not exceeding a total of four seers of foodgrains per week (of which not more than two seers shall be rice) for himself and each adult dependent, and two seers (of which not more than one seer shall be rice) for each minor dependent. In addition every heavy worker is entitled to half a seer of free ration in rice for each attendance, but miners who prefer may draw the whole or some part of the free ration in other grains.

(b) The reply to the first part is in the affirmative. The facts are that the Bihar Government have charged the Colliery Associations the actual cost of rice supplied up to the 1st November, 1944. The bulk of these supplies originated in Nepal where the Bihar Government had to purchase above their control rate. Consequently supplies of Nepal rice have been made to the Colliery Associations at approximately Rs 1-8-0 above the local wholesale control rate. From the 1st November, 1944, the Bihar Government have decided to charge the local wholesale control rate plus four annas administrative charge and to bear the resulting loss. The facts relating to the complaint regarding quality are being ascertained.

(c) In the Bengal collieries there is no rationing system but employers of more than 1,000 workers must buy their supplies of grains from the Civil Supplies Department of the Government. In Bihar every colliery is required to buy through the Rice Administrator, Indian Mining Association or the Secretary Joint Supply Pool.

(d) The Honourable Member's attention is invited to the answer given to clause (b) of the question.

CONTRACT FOR CONSTRUCTION OF CLERKS' QUARTERS AT LODI ROAD, DELHI

612. *Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde: Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether the contract for the construction of clerks' quarters at Lodi Road for about Rs. 28,60,000 was given to a higher tenderer instead of lower tenderer who, quoted 11-25 below the schedule of rates,

(b) if the answer to (a) is in the affirmative what was the total excess amount the Government had to pay over the lowest tenderer;

(c) if it is a fact that the same firm was given another contract for a similar construction at the very place for about Rs. 50,00,000 at 5 per cent. above the schedule of rates, rejecting the lowest tenderer; and

(d) were the above tenders examined by the Department before they were accepted?

The Honourable Dr. B. B. Ambedkar: (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No A portion of the Lodi Road project was given to this firm as its tender rate was low in comparison with that of others

(d) The tenders were examined and accepted by the Chief Engineer, Central Public Works Department who is the competent authority in such cases

GOVERNMENT SUPPORT FOR CYCLE INDUSTRY.

613. *Mr. Satya Narayan Sinha: (a) Has the attention of the Honourable the Commerce Member been drawn to the British Cycles Manufacturers' memorandum in which it has been pointed out that the output of British cycles can be increased to six million a year within twelve months of the end of the war?

(b) Has the attention of the Honourable Member been drawn to the statement of Mr R D Birla with regard to the said memorandum?

(c) Will the Government give an assurance to this House to support this national industry?

The Honourable Sir M. Azisul Huque: (a) and (b) Government have seen press reports of statements said to have been made by the union of cycle and motor cycle manufacturers in the United Kingdom and by Mr R. D Birla.

(c) I presume the Honourable Member is referring to the question of protection for the industry against unfair competition from abroad. Government are considering what policy should be followed after the war for the protection of industries

HAVOC BY CHOLERA AND MALARIA IN NORTH BIHAR

614. *Mr. Kallash Bihari Lal: Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands be pleased to state

(a) if the Government are aware of the menacing and distressing situation prevailing in North Bihar due to Cholera and Malaria epidemics,

(b) if his attention has been drawn to some suggestions in this regard published in the *Indian Nation* of Patna in its issue of 30th October, 1944, under the caption "North Bihar Situation",

(c) if it is not a fact that the situation is generally worsened on account of the floods caused by the rivers Koshi and Gandak, which the Provincial Government have not been able to cope with,

(d) if it is not a fact that the sources of these rivers lie in the territory of Nepal and experts, in order to investigate into the matter, require the assistance which is beyond the scope of the Provincial Government both with regard to finance and jurisdiction,

(e) the approximate population that suffer in this area of North Bihar due to vagaries of these two rivers, and

(f) if the Government propose to investigate into the matter with a view to mitigate the suffering of the people as also to find out the possibility of generating Hydro electric energy from the headworks of the Koshi and Gandak which will help both agriculturists and industrialists and would become self supporting?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) and (b). Yes.

(c) to (f) The information has been called for and will be furnished to the House on receipt.

FOODGRAINS SUPPLIED TO MADRAS PRESIDENCY

615. *Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde: Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to state.

(a) the total quantities of foodgrains supplied to the Madras Presidency by the Government of India in the year 1944;

(b) how the deficit in the Madras Presidency of 500,000 tons of foodgrains (as reported by the Foodgrains Committee) excluding Travancore and Cochin was met in the year 1944;

(c) what the export of rice from Madras Presidency to Native states and Ceylon was in the year 1944;

(d) if it is not a fact that on account of the failure of the South-east monsoon the first crop of the year 1944 is reported to be bad in some districts of Madras Presidency, and what those districts are,

(e) the deficit districts in the Madras Presidency,

(f) if the Central Government will supply the necessary quota to make up the deficit in the Madras Presidency?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) 171,207 tons up to 2nd November, 1944

(b) It is not clear which figure of 500,000 tons the Honourable Member is referring to. He must be aware that deficits differ from year to year depending on the size of the crop

(c) Ceylon—Nil

Tiavancore/Cochin—47,174 tons

Information regarding exports to other States, if any, is not available. In any case such exports could not have been large

(d) If the Honourable Member refers to the failure of the South-West monsoon, the answer is in the affirmative. The districts where the crop has suffered from lack of rain are Malabar, Coimbatore, Tinnevely, Ramnad, Madura, Vizagapatam and Chingleput

(e) Taking into account the net production and consumption figures of rice, *cholum* (*jowar*) and *cumbu* (*bajra*), the following districts are deficit —

Vizagapatam, Anantapur, Madras, Chingleput, Salem, Coimbatore, Trichinopoly, Madura, Ramnad, Tinnevely, Malabar, South Kanara, The Nilgiris

(f) The Government of India are watching the situation and will give such assistance as is necessary and possible. I have myself personally visited the Presidency very recently and shall give it my constant attention

'GROW MORE FOOD CAMPAIGN' IN MALABAR AND SOUTH KANARA DISTRICTS

616. *Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde: Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to state

(a) under the Grow More Food campaign, whether the Government of Madras have taken any steps to increase the Food production in the districts of Malabar and South Kanara under the following heads, if so, what the result achieved is,

(i) production of compost from night soil and town refuse,

(ii) distribution of improved seed,

(iii) production of ammonium sulphate,

(iv) promotion of such irrigation and drainage schemes as promise quick results,

(v) the total number of acres of waste lands brought under cultivation of food grains,

(vi) introduction of tractors;

(vii) the total number of acres of lands of culturable waste brought under food grains cultivation; and

(viii) any scheme of research which have a bearing upon the immediate short range problems of food production?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: The information has been called for and will be furnished to the House in due course

DEFICIENCY OF FOODGRAINS IN SOUTH KANARA DISTRICTS

617. *Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde: Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to state

(a) whether the district of South Kanara is not treated as a deficit district,

(b) what the total quantity of foodgrains exported to this district in the year 1948-49 is;

(c) whether it is not a fact that in the following areas in the year 1944 rice was distributed at the rate of 7/8 of a lb for three days in a week —

(i) Pannambur,

(ii) Surathkal,

(iii) Kaup;

(d) whether rice was distributed in other urban areas where there is no statutory rationing throughout every week in the year 1944 in the district of South Kanara,

(e) whether it is not a fact that Kasargod rural area in the district of South Kanara did not get rice at the rate of 7/8 of a lb for more than 8 days in a week in the months of July to Oct 1944,

(f) whether it is a fact that the Madras Government have informed the district authorities of South Kanara that no rice would be sent to that district in the year 1945, if so, how this policy is viewed by the Central Government, and

(g) if the Government is aware that the quota of 1,500 tons promised to the district of South Kanara has been stopped by the Madras Government?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) Yes, it is slightly deficit.

(b) 16,235 tons

(c), (d) and (e) Information has been called for from the Madras Government

(f) The Madras Government informed the Collector, South Kanara, that no rice would be supplied to the district after October 1944 in view of the harvest due to be gathered in September and October. It is not possible to say at present what view will be taken with regard to quotas to South Kanara later in 1945 as this would depend on the harvest

(g) Yes

MADRAS GOVERNMENT ORDER FOR PROCUREMENT OF FOODGRAINS IN DEFICIENT DISTRICTS

618. *Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde: Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to state

(a) whether he is aware that the Madras Government have issued an order for procurement of foodgrains in five deficient districts including the districts of South Kanara,

(b) if it is the policy of the Government to procure grains from the cultivators irrespective of his own needs,

(c) if the answer to (b) is in the negative, whether the Central Government would issue directives to all provincial Governments that they ought not to acquire under any process of Law any foodgrain from the cultivators which is required for their legitimate needs of maintenance of their family, agricultural labour and expenses?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) Yes

(b) No

(c) The Honourable Member has stated the policy already accepted by the Central and Provincial Governments. I shall endeavour to ensure by all means open to me that it is carried out

SELECTION OF PERSONNEL OF INDUSTRIALISTS DELEGATION TO UNITED KINGDOM

619. *Sardar Sant Singh: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies be pleased to state on what considerations the selection of the personnel of the proposed industrialists delegation to United Kingdom was based?

(b) How is it that industrialists from more than one community happened to be selected?

(c) Was any Sikh industrialist considered for inclusion in this delegation?

The Honourable Sir M. Asiful Haque: (a) The industrialists concerned were invited in view of the position they occupy in the Indian industrial world

(b) and (c) Do not arise

RETURN TO PREVIOUS OWNERS OF BOATS REMOVED FROM COASTAL AREAS OF BENGAL UNDER DENIAL POLICY

620. *Mr. K. C. Neogy: Will the Honourable Member for Food be pleased to refer to his answer to my starred question No 186 of the 7th November last and state —

(a) the number of boats that were actually returned to their previous owners before the onset of the rains;

(b) the reasons that stood in the way of the Government of Bengal fulfilling the promise given by the Government of India in this behalf; and

(c) the programme which Government of Bengal propose to follow with regard to this matter?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) Statistics are not available of the exact numbers of boats actually returned to their previous owners before the onset of the rains but the breakdown of the figure 5,984 (previously stated in reply to Question No 136 on 7th November, 1944) is as follows —

(i) 836—definitely known to have been returned to previous owners

(ii) 149—free gift to indigent fishermen and potters

(iii) 223—sold on instalment system to fishermen and potters

(iv) $\frac{4,776}{5,984}$ —sold in auction

It is not known how many boats out of items (ii), (iii) and (iv) actually reached their previous owners

(b) It is not quite clear what promise the Honourable Member is referring to but if the reference is to the statement made in the Council of State by the Honourable Mr B R Sen that the Bengal Government had taken in hand the repair of about 10,000 boats and that the boats were expected to be ready before the rains, the latest position of about 26,000 boats surrendered at the various reception centres is as follows

(1) Returned to previous owners or otherwise restored to the civil population	5,984
(2) Made over to Military and other Government authorities including the Civil Supplies Department of the Government of Bengal	3,427
(3) Dismantled and sold as timber	9,435
(4) Report still awaited, but it is believed that a large proportion of these will not be in a fit state for salvage	7,154
Total	26,000

(c) From the answer to clause (b) it will be seen that most of the boats taken over by Government have been accounted for already, but if there are any which are still capable of being salvaged, they will be repaired and returned to indigent fishermen and potters

In addition the Bengal Government have in hand the construction of 10,000 boats of varying capacity

HIGHEST PROPORTION OF CATTLE SLAUGHTERED IN BENGAL

621. *Mr. K. C. Neogy: Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands be pleased to refer to his reply to my starred question No 137 of the 7th November last and state —

(a) the reasons why the proportion of cattle slaughtered in Bengal was the highest among all the provinces of India, and

(b) the exact nature of improvement in this matter, if any, that may have taken place of late?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: The information has been asked for from the Provincial Government. It will be laid on the table of the House when received

SUICIDE BY A STUDENT OF THE LADY HARDINGE COLLEGE, DELHI

622. *Mr. K. C. Neogy: Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please refer to his reply to starred question No 134, of the 7th November, 1944, regarding the death of a Student of the Lady Hardinge College, and state —

(a) whether the report of the incident was widely published in the Press of Bengal, United Provinces, Delhi, Punjab and Sind;

(b) whether the College authorities issued any statement giving a full and authentic version of the incident, if not, why not;

(c) whether the Government realise that this news has deeply affected the relatives of the medical students who come from all parts of India; and

(d) whether the Government now propose to instruct the College authorities to issue a full statement to the Press regarding the case so that the anxiety created in the minds of the students' relatives may be removed?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) and (b) Yes A Press Agency report received considerable publicity. This report was accurate and reasonably detailed and the College Authorities did not consider it necessary to issue any statement

- (c) No Government have received no representation in the matter
(d) No

USE BY SOLDIERS OF SWIMMING BATH AT LADY HARDINGE MEDICAL COLLEGE, DELHI

623. *Mr. K. C. Neogy: Will the Secretary for Education, - Health and Lands please state —

(a) with reference to the practice which was brought to the notice of the Government in this House during the last session, of allowing the swimming bath at the Lady Hardinge Medical College to be used by soldiers, the action taken by the College authorities to stop the practice, and

(b) if it is a fact that the Warden of the Students Hostel has been allotted rooms right inside the Hostel, and she is allowed to receive her male relatives and friends at her rooms, if so, has this practice the approval of the authorities?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) As stated in reply to part (a) of the Honourable Raja Yuvraj Datta Singh's question in the Council of State No 107 of the 20th November 1943, the Swimming Bath Committee of the College accepted a proposal that on Saturday evening during the long vacation, when the bath was reserved exclusively for the staff, members of the staff should be permitted to invite guests, both men and women. These guest nights were held only on one or two occasions. On two occasions the Committee also invited expert male swimmers to give swimming, diving and lifesaving demonstrations for the students. The College Swimming Bath Committee has stopped the practice of inviting outsiders since July 1943.

(b) Yes. She has a separate entrance to her rooms and a separate garden where she is allowed to receive her friends like other members of the staff.

LICENSES FOR RAW FILMS

624. *Mr. K. C. Neogy: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies be pleased to state the conditions which entitle a producer to an allotment of raw films?

(b) Have raw films been allotted to any producers who were not in production on the dates laid down under the Film Control Order, if so, what their names are and on what grounds were the exceptions made in each such case?

(c) Is the Honourable Member aware of the allegation that some producers start fictitious or shadow companies under different names in order to get separate quotas for each such company?

(d) Is it a fact that some producers who were in production on the dates specified under the Film Control Order, have been refused licenses for raw films, if so, on what grounds were they refused?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) Raw films have been allotted to producers who qualify under any one or the other conditions set out in the reply which I gave to part (b) of Dr Habibur Rahman's starred question No 716 on the 30th March 1944.

(b) Yes, raw films have been allotted to a few as in the list laid on the table. These were cases for which provision was made under the conditions laid down under the Film Control Order.

(c) Yes, but that will not help him to obtain a quota under the Film Control Order in view of the conditions laid down.

(d) It is possible that some producers who were in production on the date of the Control Order may have been refused licences for raw films. No producer, however, has been refused licence who has fulfilled all the requisite conditions referred to in (a) above.

Statement

Krishna Movietone
Tajmahal Pictures
Bhavani Productions
Sanjeevan Art Productions
K B Ardeshtir Irani.
Metropolitan Pictures
Sobhanachala Pictures.
Sarasathi Films
Star Combines & Famous Cine Joint Productions
K S S Pictures
Murugan Talkie Film Co

PRESCRIBING SET FORM OF RECEIPT FOR RENT UNDER DELHI RENT CONTROL ORDINANCE.

625. *Mr. Kailash Bihari Lal: Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state if the Government propose to prescribe a set form of receipt to be compulsorily granted by the landlord to the tenants under the Delhi Rent Control Ordinance, 1944?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: Government have the matter under examination.

DENIAL OF HINDUS' RIGHT FOR CREMATING THEIR DEAD IN BRITISH WEST INDIES AND BRITISH GUIANA.

626. *Sardar Mangal Singh: Will the Honourable Member for Commonwealth Relations be pleased to state

(a) if it is a fact that the Hindus in British West Indies and British Guiana have been denied the religious right of cremating their dead since their entry in those colonies and have been forced to bury them,

(b) if it is a fact that since a very long time a persistent and forceful demand has been made by the Hindus there and the representatives sent by the Government of India to those parts now and then and by Indian associations such as Shri Sanatan Dharma Pratidinhi Sabha, Punjab, Lahore, to get this grievance removed, but with no result,

(c) if it is a fact that the West India Royal Commission 1938-39 made recommendations in this behalf "to ensure that, subject to necessary safeguards no obstacle should be placed in the way of the practice";

(d) if the Government of India has ascertained as to what steps have been taken by the Colonial Governments concerned to implement the said recommendations of the West India Royal Commission approved by the British Parliament, and

(e) if he is aware of the fact that Hindu prisoners of war in German Camps are authorised to cremate their dead, if so, why the British Colonies deny this religious right to the Hindus there; what necessary and effective steps the Government of India intend to take to get this grievance removed at an early date?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: (a), (b), (d) and (e) Indian immigration into British Guiana and the West Indies commenced about the years 1838 to 1845. The first report about the lack of facilities for Indians to cremate their dead reached us in 1922. Mr Tyson, who was sent on deputation to the West Indies, reported that Hindus were asking for facilities to burn their dead and that that the authorities were sympathetic. About this time representations began to come from Shri Sanatan Dharma Pritinadhi Sabha, Lahore, and the Government of India took up the matter with His Majesty's Government. They are still in correspondence with them. A final reply has not been received yet.

(c) Yes.

REFUSAL OF OPTION TO MADRAS PEASANTS FOR SUPPLYING PADDY OR RICE ON REQUISITION.

627. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to state:—

(a) if it is not a fact—

(i) that a deputation of the Andhra Provincial Ryots Association and Andhra Foodgrains Producers Conference had waited on the Civil Supplies Commissioner on the 30th of October and on the Honourable Adviser for Food to His Excellency the Governor of Madras on the 31st October,

(ii) that the deputationists have requested the Foodgrains Requisition Authorities to give the option of offering either paddy or rice to the actual growers, and

(iii) that both the Civil Supplies Commissioner and the Adviser have refused to give this option to peasants,

(b) whether he is aware that the Food Department had informed me in January, 1943, while I was in jail that the Madras Government had no objection to peasants supplying either paddy or rice, and

(c) whether it is not a fact that the Madras Adviser has told the deputation above referred to that the millers need the support of Government more than peasants?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) (i) Yes

(ii) Yes

(iii) No The option still continues though in a restricted and modified form

(b) No information is available

(c) No

BAN ON MOVEMENT OF GROUNDNUT CAKE FROM VIZAGAPATAM DISTRICT

628. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to state

(a) if it is not a fact that the Regional Controller of Railway priorities has banned the movement and export of Groundnut Cake from Vizagapatam District even to the neighbouring districts of East and West Godavari,

(b) if it is not also a fact that, the peasants of the districts of East and West Godavari are, as a result, denied this easy and cheap supply of manure essential for the progress of "Grow More Food" campaign, especially in regard to rice, and

(c) whether the Government will be pleased to move the Railway authorities concerned, and see that this ban on export of Groundnut Cake is removed and its export to at least the neighbouring districts, is again permitted?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) The Regional Controller of Railway Priorities, Calcutta (west) has banned the export of oilcake from stations on the Bengal Nagpur Railway North of and including Waltair and Vizagapatam except to stations on that Railway

(b) It should be possible for the peasants of East and West Godavari to obtain their requirements from other areas

(c) The Government of India have sent an officer to Madras and Hyderabad to discuss the matter with the authorities concerned and suitable action will be taken in the light of his report

INADEQUATE RICE RATION TO LAND-LESS LABOURERS IN KASARAGODA TALUKA OF SOUTH KANARA DISTRICT.

629. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to state

(a) if it is a fact that in the Kasaragoda Taluka in South Kanara District, the rice ration of 20 tolas a day allowed to all land-less labourers is not enough even for a single square meal of a workman;

(b) if it is a fact that wheat or gram given to these labourers for four days in a week in pursuance of recent orders, is of a rotten quality unsuitable for healthy consumption;

(c) if it is a fact that these people are refused rice ration even for the rest three days in a week for which it is now being supplied, unless wheat or gram of such bad quality is also purchased along with it which means an extra burden upon the poor labourers whether they like it or not,

(d) if it is not a fact that such steps of compulsion are being taken to exhaust the existing supplies of such bad quality of wheat or gram, and

(e) if the answers for the above questions are in the affirmative, whether he would give an assurance that immediate steps would be taken to remedy the situation?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) It is incorrect to say that landless labourers get only 20 tolas of rice per day

(b) No I have no reason to believe that the quality is bad

(c) Information is being obtained.

(d) I have already stated in reply to part (b) that I have no reason to believe that the quality is bad

(e) Does not arise

FOOD COMMISSIONER FOR UNITED PROVINCES

630. *Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Will the Honourable the Food Member please state —

(a) if there is any Food Commissioner for the United Provinces, and

(b) if so, where his headquarter is located, if his headquarter is at Delhi, why so?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) The United Provinces is included in Region II which also embraces Ajmer Merwara and Rewa State

(b) The Regional Food Commissioner of this Region has a residence in Delhi which is a convenient centre for his region

SUPPLY OF CONTROLLED WOOLLEN CLOTH TO GOVERNMENT SERVANTS IN AJMER.

631. *Mr. Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies please state;

(a) if it is a fact that the Chief Commissioner of Ajmer, has ordered that Government controlled woollen cloth and blankets are to be supplied only to Government servants drawing over Rs 100 per month, and to those who pay income-tax, if so, what the purpose of the order is, and

(b) if it is not a fact that the principle underlying such control is to benefit the middle and poor classes, if so, why they are being deprived of this benefit?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: My information is that the facts as stated by the Honourable Member are substantially correct. The Honourable Member has also correctly propounded the principle underlying our control. Government have the matter under consideration and are in correspondence with the Chief Commissioner. If the Honourable Member so desires, I shall be glad to inform him of Government's decision in the matter when it is arrived at.

THE HONOURABLE DR B. R. AMBEDKAR'S SPEECH AT ELLORE

632. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: (a) Will the Honourable the Leader of the House be pleased to state if it is true that the Honourable Dr Ambedkar had exhorted the Harijans in his speech at Ellore, West Godavari District, in his 1944. October, tour to take to violence?

(b) Do Government approve of such speeches from one of the members of His Excellency the Viceroy's Council?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: (a) I have seen press reports of the Honourable Dr Ambedkar's speech referred to by the Honourable Member

(b) The Honourable Member is asking for an expression of opinion but I would invite his attention to my reply to Starred Question No 258 by the Honourable Mr. K. S. Gupta on the 10th November 1944

PREPARATION OF FRESH ELECTORAL ROLLS FOR CENTRAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
IN NORTH-WEST FRONTIER PROVINCE.

633. *Mr. Abdul Qayyum: (a) Will the Honourable the Law Member please state whether the preparation of fresh electoral rolls for the Central Legislative Assembly, has begun in the North-West Frontier Province; if not, when the said preparation will begin, and

(b) the date or dates for filling claims and objections? .

The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy: (a) Yes

(b) The rolls will be published on the 1st December and Regulation 1 of the relevant regulations in force in the North West Frontier Province requires claims and objections to be presented within 15 days of the date of publication

PROPOSED INCREASE OF BASIC QUOTA FOR IMPORTS FROM UNITED KINGDOM

634. *Mr. K. C. Neogy: (a) Will the Honourable the Commerce Member be pleased to state whether his attention has been drawn to the statement made by the Chief Controller of Imports on October 18, 1944, to the Andhra Chamber of Commerce that the basic quota for imports from the United Kingdom, is proposed to be increased from 12½ per cent to 50 per cent in the case of certain goods?

(b) Has his attention been also drawn to the statement of the President of the Indian Merchants' Chamber at its quarterly meeting in Bombay in August, last protesting against the present import policy of Government?

(c) Is it a fact that considerable quantities of textiles have been imported from the United Kingdom, and, if so, what has been the total of such imports so far?

(d) What has been the increase in the percentage of quota for imports of soaps, toilet requisites, liquor, bleaching powder, caustic soda, soda ash, sodium bichromate, sodium sulphide and other chemicals, separately?

(e) Is the Honourable Member aware that the increased imports of such goods may force several industries producing these chemicals or using these chemicals for production of consumer goods to close down? Is it a fact that specific assurances of protection or continued Government assistance were given to some of these industries when they came to the Government's aid at the beginning of the war?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) Government have seen the press report of the meeting between the Chief Controller of Imports and the Andhra Chamber of Commerce. This report is however inaccurate and was not shown to the Chief Controller of Imports before publication. The statement made by him related only to the increase in the quota for the import of sheet and plate glass from the United Kingdom from 12½ per cent to 50 per cent., the Chamber having made a specific enquiry regarding the import of window glass

(b) No.

(c) The answer to the first part is in the negative. The second part does not arise.

(d) No licences have been issued for the import of soaps from the United Kingdom and there has been no increase in the quotas for the import of toilet requisites and liquor from that country. Bleaching powder, caustic soda, soda ash, sodium bichromate, sodium sulphide and other chemicals are licensed not on a quota basis but on considerations of merit in the light of Indian requirements, after taking into consideration the indigenous production in the country.

(e) No, Sir, as import licences are granted with due regard to the extent to which the total demand can be met from indigenous production.

As regards the second part of the question, the Honourable Member's attention is invited to the answer given to parts (a) and (e) of starred question No. 145 asked by Mr. Manu Subedar on the 7th November 1944.

POSTPONED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

(Postponed from 15th November, 1944)

HANDLOOM WEAVING INDUSTRY FACT FINDING COMMITTEE

408. *Prof. N. G. Banga: Will the Honourable the Member for Industries and Civil Supplies be pleased to state.

(a) when the Handloom Weaving Industry Fact Finding Committee was appointed, and when it submitted its report,

(b) why its report or recommendations have not so far been published; and

(c) whether Government propose to publish them or at least a summary of the report and conclusions, and, if not, why not?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) I take it the Honourable Member refers to the Fact Finding Committee (Hand-looms and Mills) which was appointed on 25th January 1941 and submitted its report on 28th February 1942.

(b) The report has been published

(c) This does not arise

EXPENDITURE ON 'GROW MORE FOOD CAMPAIGN'

410. *Prof. N. G. Banga: (a) Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state how much Government have spent over the "Grow More Food" campaign since it has been instituted, giving details for provinces and year?

(b) How much of these funds have actually reached peasants, and in what shape?

(c) Are the results commensurate with the amount spent?

(d) How much of it was spent on propaganda?

(e) What is the extra extent of land brought under cultivation, and what is their estimated total yield?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) A statement showing commitment, from Central Revenues in aid of the 'Grow More Food Campaign' is laid on the table

(b) The money was given mainly for irrigation works, and seed and manure distribution and has therefore been of actual benefit to cultivators

(c) The production of the main foodgrains in Provinces and States from which reports are received was, on the average of the three years before the war, 55.6 million tons in 1942-43, the first year of the 'Grow More Food Campaign' it rose to 57.5 million tons and in 1943-44 to 60.9 million tons. The greater part of the latter increase was in Bengal and may be attributed partly to the 'Grow More Food Campaign' and partly to a favourable season and high prices

(d) Rs 2,500

(e) The extra land brought under cultivation during 1942-43 in British India (excluding Aymer-Merwara, Delhi and Bengal) was 1.7 million acres. The cultivated area in Assam, C P and Berar, Coorg, Madras, and United Provinces increased by nearly one million acres during 1943-44. The total yield from this area during 1942-43 and 1943-44 may be estimated as 6,00,000 tons. Information about other provinces is not available at present.

Statement showing the loans and grants sanctioned to Provincial and State Governments for 'Grow More Food Schemes' during 1942-43, 1943-44 and 1944-45 (upto the 4th November 1944)

Province or State	1942-43		1943-44		1944-45		
	Grant from cotton fund for diverting short staple cotton to Food crops	Loan	Grant from Central Revenues	Grant from Cotton Fund	Loan	Grant from Central Revenues	Grant from Cotton Fund
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs
Ajmer-Merwara			70,000	29,185	2,34,250	70,016	21,696
Assam		9,01,867	4,02,585		10,86,100	4,86,150	
Baluchistan			10,376		1,00,000	96,703	
Bengal		62,15,000	12,84,184		23,15,000	11,82,607	
Bihar			9,67,152		9,64,000	13,46,770	
Central Provinces & Berar		39,50,000	11,82,500	5,38,000	31,10,220	9,31,776	50,000
Coorg		3,00,000	5,93,093	2,68,678	8,22,500	23,80,155	13,63,250
Madras		45,00,000	2,57,000	1,46,000	16,25,000	12,02,892	
N. W. F. P.	28,83,721		1,97,500		12,74,000	8,24,000	
Orissa		5,77,300	1,73,680		14,67,600	5,31,441	
Punjab			3,00,000			16,08,860	
Raj			4,80,835			68,000	
United Provinces			9,37,500	4,93,500		9,02,490	7,19,250
Baroda State			10,800	8,677			
Kashmir State							
Kutch State							
Rampur State							
Imperial Council of Agricultural Research.			1,31,600			2,73,400	8,698
Total	28,83,721	1,64,44,167	69,77,425	14,84,706	1,30,68,670	1,17,27,360	21,53,194

NOTE.—The full sum sanctioned was not in every case spent during the financial year.

NOTE.—The full sum sanctioned was not in every case spent during the financial year.

DISCONTINUANCE OF LAND REVENUE REMISSIONS IN PROVINCES.

411. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: (a) Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands be pleased to state if he is aware that certain Provincial Governments have cancelled land revenue remission annually granted to ryots on their land tax for some years previous to the war?

(b) Has this cancellation not retarded the progress of the "Grow More Food" campaign to some extent?

(c) Will Government be pleased to consider the advisability of persuading Provincial Governments to continue the 1939-40 land revenue remissions so as to give the peasants greater incentive to grow more food?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) Yes, the land revenue remissions had been granted to prevent hardship arising from the low prices of agricultural produce and were cancelled when the prices of agricultural produce rose.

(b) Government have not received any complaints to that effect

(c) The Government of India do not consider it possible to persuade Provincial Governments to continue at a time of comparatively high prices for agricultural produce a concession given to prevent hardship due to low prices

STEPS FOR FOSTERING TANNING INDUSTRY

427. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies be pleased to state

(a) if any definite steps have been taken by Government since the beginning of the war to create and foster the Indian Tanning Industry in order to utilise Indian hides and skins in India alone for manufacturing purposes, if so, what those steps are,

(b) what success has been attained,

(c) what proportion of the hides and skins that reach the markets are being exported and what percentage is utilised in the Indian tanning concerns,

(d) whether any new tanning concerns have come to be organised in India since the beginning of the war, if so, the total quantity of skins they are able to utilise,

(e) how many of them and with what percentage of total Indian tanning production are controlled by Indians,

(f) what percentage (approximately) of the Indian Tanning Industry is in the hands of foreign concerns,

(g) whether Government are taking any definite steps to create either under State auspices or under Indian private enterprise Indian Controlled Tanning Industry, if so, what they are, and

(h) whether Government have attempted to manufacture any of the chemicals needed for tanning purposes, if so, what these chemicals are and with what success?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) Yes, by restricting the export of most weights and varieties of buff and cow hides and by giving assistance in the supply of materials required for tanning purposes. Of these Governments have created a large reserve

(b) As a result of this assistance the Indian tanning industry has increased its output considerably

(c) It is not possible to give exact figures, but owing to the export restrictions already referred to a great majority of hides and skins produced in this country are utilised by Indian tanning concerns

(d) Yes. As many of the new concerns are relatively unorganised cottage industries, it is not possible to give figures.

(e) All tanneries which have come into being during the war are controlled by Indians. It is not possible to give figures of the percentage of their production as compared with total Indian production for the reasons already stated

(f) It is not possible to give figures but the Indian Tanning industry is predominantly in the hands of Indian concerns

(g) No

(h) No. Government have not themselves attempted to manufacture any of the chemicals needed for tanning purposes, but with Government assistance

certain of the chemicals required such as Bichromates, Hypo, Caustic Soda and Sulphuric Acid, are being produced in India in sufficient quantities to meet the tanning industry's requirements in full

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

QUOTA OF PAPER FOR VARIOUS NEWS AGENCIES

80. Mr. G. Rangiah Naidu: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies please state the quota of paper prescribed for publishing news by the (i) Reuters, (ii) Associated Press of India, (iii) United Press of India, (iv) Orient Press of India, (v) Associated Press of America, (vi) National News Service, (vii) United Press of America, (viii) Globe News Agency, (ix) Tass News Agency, and (x) General News Agency?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: The quantity of paper which any of these news agencies can consume is determined by the provisions of the Paper Control (Economy) Order, 1944. No quantities have been specifically fixed by Government in addition to the quantities referred to above.

ELECTION OF NEW SHAHDARA (DELHI) MUNICIPALITY

81. Mr. G. Rangiah Naidu: Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state the reasons for not holding the election of the newly constituted Shahdara (Delhi) Municipality?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: The necessary proceedings preliminary to the holding of the election are being pushed on as quickly as possible. There is no question, therefore, of not holding the election.

EXTENSION OF TERM TO NOMINATED MEMBERS OF OLD SHAHDARA (DELHI) NOTIFIED AREA COMMITTEE

82. Mr. G. Rangiah Naidu: Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state the reasons for extending the terms of the nominated members of the old constituted Shahdara (Delhi) Notified Area Committee and not replacing them by elected members?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: The term of the members of the Old Shahdara Notified Area Committee has not been specifically extended, but under the provisions of subsection 7(a) of section 4 of the Punjab Municipal Act, 1911, the former members continue in office until the election and appointment of the new members are notified.

HIGHER PROPORTION OF NOMINATED MEMBERS IN SHAHDARA (DELHI) MUNICIPALITY

83. Mr. G. Rangiah Naidu: Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state the reasons for fixing the number of nominated members more than in proportion to the elected members against the provision of the Punjab Municipal Act of the Shahdara (Delhi) Municipality under the new constitution?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the reply given to the unstarred question No. 155 put by Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali in the last Session. Under the proviso to section 12 of the Punjab Municipal Act, 1911, the Local Government has the power to vary the proportion of appointed members. There is no question, therefore, of any infringement of the provisions of the Act.

NOMINATION OF SANITARY INSPECTOR TO SHAHDARA (DELHI) MUNICIPALITY

84. Mr. G. Rangiah Naidu: Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state the reasons for nominating the Sanitary Inspector, Rural Area, to the Shahdara (Delhi) Municipality in addition to the Sub-Assistant Surgeon, Shahdara, who is also in charge of the sanitation of the town?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: The Sanitary Inspector has been nominated in order that there may be on the Committee a sanitation expert. The Sub-Assistant Surgeon is primarily concerned with medical relief.

ANTI-MALARIA MEASURES FOR SHAHDARA (DELHI) TOWN

85. Mr. G. Rangiah Naidu: Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state the extent of the measures adopted for the Shahdara (Delhi) Town under Anti-Malaria Scheme?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: Malaria control measures in Shahdara Town are carried out by the Shahdara Municipality as far as its funds permit and take the form of sprinkling diesel oil on pools of stagnant water to prevent mosquito breeding during the malaria season

CLOSING OF HAJ OFFICES ON EMBARKATION DAY

86. Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi: Will the Honourable Member for Commonwealth Relations be pleased to state

(a) if his attention has been drawn to an editorial of the *Adil*, Delhi entitled "Musalmanon ke Shaaer Mazhabi men khuli madakhilat",

(b) the circumstances under which Haj Office, Hajj Booking Office and Port Hajj Committee Offices were locked up on the day of departure of the first batch of steamers, and

(c) the action taken against officers responsible for closing down the Hajj Offices, if none, why?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: Attention is invited to the replies to parts (a) to (c) of starred question No 430

HAJ PILGRIMS NOT PERMITTED TO COME OUT OF DOCK AREA TO MEET FRIENDS, ETC.

87. Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi: Will the Honourable Member for Commonwealth Relations be pleased to state the circumstances under which pilgrims in possession of valid pilgrim passes are not permitted to come out of dock area to see their friends or relatives after once entering dock areas?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: Attention is invited to the reply to part (d) of starred question No. 430

ENQUIRY OFFICE AT KARACHI HAJ CAMP

88. Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi: Will the Honourable Member for Commonwealth Relations be pleased to state

(a) if it is a fact that an Enquiry Office was opened at Hajj Camp, Karachi, in open air,

(b) if it is a fact that no arrangements for the delivery of telegrams and post were in existence in the Hajj Camp,

(c) if it is a fact that all incoming post used to be placed at Enquiry Office table unopened for,

(d) if it is a fact that no responsible person was put in charge of Enquiry Office table, and

(e) if it is a fact that the Hajj Officer has no previous administrative experience to his credit?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: (a) to (d) Attention is invited to the reply to starred question No. 431

(e) He has considerable office and administrative experience of Haj work and had successfully arranged Haj sailings in 1941

GRIEVANCES OF GOVERNMENT OF INDIA STAFF DEPUTED TO DELHI RATIONING OFFICE

89. Mr. K. C. Neogy: (a) Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to state if it is a fact that about 8 per cent of the experienced clerical staff of Government of India and attached offices was deputed to the Delhi Rationing Office under special orders of His Excellency the Viceroy,

(b) if it is a fact that some of them were returned to their original offices after rationing was started, while others were indefinitely retained in spite of their unwillingness to continue in the Rationing Office, and that no deputation allowance was sanctioned for these officials, if so, the reasons for this,

(c) if he is aware of the fact that parent offices of these officials are promoting their juniors to higher appointments in their absence, and the "next below rule" of the Finance Department is not adhered to in their case, and the deputed officials are deprived of the legitimate prospects in their parent offices without being properly compensated by Delhi Rationing authorities; and

(d) if it is a fact that, in spite of so many qualified and experienced officials being thus deputed by the Central Government, the Rationing Author-

ities are importing outsiders for responsible positions such as those of Rationing Officers, Supervisors, Assistant Supervisors, Inspectors, etc., and some of these posts have been given to persons who are not even Matriculates?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) Yes

(b) Yes, a greater part of the temporary staff employed for Ration Card writing was disbanded or returned to their parent offices when the writing of the first set of Ration Cards was completed. With regard to the second part of the question, service in Delhi Rationing is not foreign service and so the question of paying deputation allowance does not arise.

(c) The orders are that permanent Government servants transferred to Delhi Rationing shall be eligible for the benefits of the "next below rule". In regard to temporary Government servants so transferred, their cases are considered on merits on reference from their parent department.

(d) No. The claims of all clerks either from Central Government or from other sources are considered equally whenever a responsible post is to be filled in. A large number of Central Government Clerks have in practice been appointed to posts of the kind mentioned.

GRIEVANCES OF GOVERNMENT OF INDIA STAFF DEPUTED TO DELHI RATIONING OFFICE

90. Mr. K. C. Neogy: Will the Honourable the Food Member please state

(a) : it is a fact that in Delhi Rationing officials are treated as on leave without pay for a short late-coming and punished with suspension for minor irregularities, in spite of clear orders to the contrary on the subject,

(b) if it is a fact that a Memorial embodying some of the above grievances was submitted by the deputationists to His Excellency the Viceroy, through proper channel but was withheld by the Chief Commissioner, will the Honourable Member be pleased to place a copy of that Memorial on the table and state the grounds for withholding the same,

(c) if it is a fact that the officials on deputation are not being allowed to appear for any departmental test or Federal Public Service Commission Examination for Gazetted posts which their parent offices were permitting them to avail of, and

(d) if he will direct that all officials on deputation who may be willing to go back to their parent offices, should be relieved after being duly compensated for any loss already suffered by them in service prospects and emoluments?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) No

(b) Yes. The Memorial was withheld by the Chief Commissioner under Home Department Notification No. 106/38, dated 24th August, 1939. I regret I am unable to place a copy of the said memorial on the table of the House.

(c) Normally officials on deputation to the Delhi rationing offices are permitted to appear in the departmental examinations of their original Departments except when the work on which they are employed in the Rationing Organisation is considered to be more important.

(d) No. In view of the paramount importance of their work it is not possible to relieve them for the present. No question of compensation arises.

MEASURES AGAINST PROFITEERING BY WOOLLEN CLOTH HAWKERS IN DELHI

91. Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies please state the measures taken against profiteering by Woollen Cloth Dealers hawking on the foot-paths in the City of Delhi? If no measures have been taken, the reasons therefor?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Haque: Prices have already been fixed in respect of woollen cloth and notified for public information. Staff employed for the prevention of hoarding and profiteering have instructions to take action in all cases of sales above the controlled rates.

EXPORTS OF ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES FROM DELHI

92. Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies please state the quantity of each commodity, distribution and control of which is considered essential for the life of the community exported from Delhi, by rail and by road, respectively during the preceding three years?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: It is not clear what commodity or commodities the Honourable Member has in mind. In any case, it is not possible to collect the information required within the time that is available. The value of the information thus collected would, in any case, be incommensurate with the amount of labour involved in compiling the information required.

MEASURES FOR BRINGING DOWN PRICES OF ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES

93. Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies please state the measures taken to bring down the prices of commodities essential for the life of the community to pre-war rates? If no measures have been taken, the reasons therefor?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: Government have taken several measures to bring down prices of commodities. It is clearly impossible to attempt to bring these down to the level of pre-war rates, since certain elements of cost cannot but rise under the impact of the abnormal war conditions. The measures taken are—

(1) Controlling prices of commodities either through specific orders relating to individual articles or under the Hoarding and Profiteering Prevention Ordinance, 1943.

The price of practically every commodity which can be described as essential has been controlled in this manner.

(2) Arranging increased supplies of commodities both imported and indigenously produced.

EXPORTS OF ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES FROM DELHI

94. Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: Will the Honourable the Food Member please state the quantity of each commodity whose distribution and control is considered essential for the life of the community exported from Delhi by rail and by road respectively during the preceding three years?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: A statement showing the quantity of each rationed commodity, exported from Delhi, by rail during the preceding three years is laid on the table. No export by road is reported.

Statement

Name of the year	Name of essential commodities exported		
	Rice	Wheat	Wheat Products Sugar
1943-43		267 tons	438 tons
1943-44	37 tons	300 tons	38 tons
April 1944 to October 1944	10 maunds		

MEASURES FOR BRINGING DOWN PRICES OF FOODGRAINS, ETC

95. Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: Will the Honourable the Food Member please state the measures taken to bring down the prices of foodgrains, sugar and gur to pre-war rates? If no measures have been taken the reasons therefor?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: It is not the present policy of the Government of India to bring down the prices of foodgrains, sugar and gur to pre-war rates. Their efforts have been directed towards attaining a level of prices which in existing circumstances will maintain adequate production without imposing too heavy a burden upon the consumer. The progress, which has been already achieved in this direction, has been brought about by the statutory control of prices supported by importation of foodgrains from abroad and the planned movement of internal stocks to the areas where they are required. In the case of gur, a statutory price has not been fixed but ceiling prices for export and control of movement have been instituted by the supplying provinces.

MEASURES FOR HOLDING GENERAL ELECTION OF CENTRAL LEGISLATURE

96. Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: Will the Honourable the Law Member please state the measures taken to hold a general election of the Central Legislature in 1945? If no measures have been taken, the reasons therefor?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: The life of each of the two Chambers of the Central Legislature has been extended upto the 1st October, 1945, and

even if it were now known that His Excellency the Governor General would not effect further extensions, there would be no question of taking measures at this stage to hold general elections

MEASURES FOR REDUCING ELECTRIC CHARGES IN SHAHDARA (DELHI) TOWN

97. Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state the measures taken to reduce the present rate of electric current supply charged by Messrs Martin and Company for Shahdara (Delhi) town to those charged for Delhi City? If no measures have been taken, the reasons therefor?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: The information has been called for and a reply will be furnished to the House when it is received

RAISING OF SHAHDARA (DELHI) MIDDLE SCHOOL TO A HIGH SCHOOL

98. Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state the considerations for raising the District Board Middle School at Shahdara (Delhi) to a High School

Mr. J. D. Tyson: No decision has yet been arrived at with regard to the raising of the District Board Middle School, Shahdara (Delhi) to the High Standard

ELECTION OF NEW SHAHDARA (DELHI) MUNICIPALITY

99. Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state the probable date on which the first election of the newly constituted Shahdara (Delhi) Municipality will be held?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: The general election in Shahdara is fixed to take place in the first week of January, 1945

INCREASE IN COST OF LIVING IN CERTAIN CITIES

100. Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state

(a) if it is a fact that the living index has shown an increase in the cost of living by 182 per cent in certain cities, if not, what the fact is,

(b) if it is a fact that the wages of Railway servants working in those cities have not been raised by 182 per cent, if not, what the correct fact is, and

(c) if the Government propose to increase the wages of the employees in those cities where the cost of living has arisen by 182 per cent accordingly; if not, why not?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) Government are aware that the published cost of living indexes have risen in some towns by 182 or more over the index of August 1939.

(b) The answer to the first part is in the affirmative. In regard to the second Railway workers are compensated for increased cost of living by relief in cash and concessions in kind which together are considered adequate to meet the needs and are adjusted from time to time as the situation demands.

(c) The answer to the first part is in the negative. As regards the second part, the policy of Government is not to make any comprehensive revisions in scales of pay during the present unstable economic conditions but to meet increases in the cost of living either by dearness allowance or by relief in kind or by both.

REQUESTS FOR ADJUDICATION OF RAILWAY TRADE DISPUTES

101. Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state

(a) the number of requests for adjudication of trade disputes between the Railway Administrations and its employees recorded during the preceding five years; and

(b) how those requests were disposed of?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) and (b) I place on the table a statement showing the number of requests made for settlement of trade disputes between Railway Administrations and their employees during the past five years under the Trade Disputes Act or Rule 81A of the Defence of India Rules, and action taken on them.

Reports for Boards of Conciliation or Courts of Enquiry under the Trade Disputes Act or adjudication under Defence of India Rule 31 A in connection with trade disputes between the Railway Administrations and their employees

Serial No	Year	From whom the request was received	Nature of request	Action taken
1	2	3	4	5
1	1939	Certain travelling Ticket Inspectors on the E I Rly	Appointment of a Court of Enquiry under section 3 of the Trade Disputes Act to consider the propriety of withholding a memorial addressed to His Excellency the Viceroy	Rejected (The trade Dispute Act did not apply as the matter was not a trade dispute for the purpose of the Act)
2	1940	The employees of the G I P Railway	Appointment of a Court of Enquiry under section 3 of the Trade Disputes Act to investigate the question of grant of war dearness allowance	Accepted
3	1943	All India Railwaymen's Federation Myslapore Madras	Appointment of an adjudicator under Defence of India Rule 81A on the question of dearness allowance for Railway men	Rejected
4	1943	The G I P Railwaymen's Union Bombay	Do Do	Do
5	1944	The N W R Employees Union Karachi	Do Do	Do
6	1944	G I P Railwaymen's Union Bombay	Do Do	Do
7	1944	B, E & C I Railwaymen's Union Bombay	Do Do	Under consideration of Government

PROCEDURE RE APPOINTMENT OF ADJUDICATOR OF TRADE DISPUTES.

102. Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state

(a) the rules governing the proceedings before an adjudicator is appointed under Rule 81 of the Defence of India Act Rules,

(b) the qualifications prescribed for the appointment of an adjudicator for the trade disputes between the employer and its employees, and

(c) on whose report or request an adjudicator under Rule 81 of the Defence of India Act Rules is to be appointed?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) The Honourable Member is presumably referring to rule 81A of the Defence of India Rules. There are no rules governing the proceedings before an adjudicator.

(b) No qualifications have been prescribed and it is not possible to do so because action under Rule 81A is of an urgent nature and it is not always possible readily to obtain persons of any particular qualifications in different parts of the country. The general rule is to appoint the most suitable person available in all circumstances of the case. Persons so far appointed include High Court Judges, District and Sessions Judges, Chief Presidency Magistrates, Labour Commissioners and their Assistants, Workmen Compensation Commissioners and War Injuries Claims Officers,

(c) An adjudicator may be appointed at the request of either or both the parties, or on the initiative of Government.

RESULTS OF PROPAGANDA BY INDIAN LABOUR FEDERATION

103. Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state the results achieved from the propaganda by the Federation of Labour from the subsidy of Rs 13,000 a month?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply given by me on the 7th November 1944 to part (c) of Prof Ranga's starred question No 152.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

SHORT AND LONG TERM POLICY FOR IMPROVEMENT OF MILK AND MEAT SUPPLY

Mr. E. L. C. Gwillt: In view of an increasing shortage of milk and meat in the country, will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands be pleased to state if he is prepared to consider a short and long term policy for the improvement of milk and meat supply, particularly in urban areas, and to convey the following proposals to the Provincial Governments

(a) As a short term policy

(i) the examination of the question, which particular breed of goat yields the largest volume of milk, with a view to organising immediately the rearing of such breed in the quantities necessary,

(ii) whether in view of the damage done by goats to vegetation, resulting frequently in wide-spread soil erosion, provincial authorities will see that goats bred with these objects in view, are confined to such areas where damage will be reduced to a minimum,

(b) As a long term policy the practicability of centres being set up in cattle breeding areas, and where they may be of greatest service for artificial insemination, to which agriculturists and others may take their cows?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) (i) and (ii) Yes

(b) The technique of artificial insemination has in recent years been considerably developed in certain countries of the world especially the U.S.S.R. and U.S.A. Before the Government of India can recommend to the Provincial Governments the adoption of this technique on a mass scale, it is necessary that experiments should be conducted to modify and adjust the technique to suit the Indian conditions. These experiments are in progress at the Imperial Veterinary Research Institute under an officer trained specially for this purpose. As soon as the stage has been reached when the technique can

be adopted to Indian conditions, the question of development will be taken up with the Provincial Governments

Mr. E. L. O. Gwilt: Have not experiments already been carried out with a marked degree of success in artificial insemination of cattle?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: The only experiments I am aware of are those conducted at Izzatnagar and with regard to them I would not care to say that a very great deal of success has been attained, very largely because of lack of suitable appliances

APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE OF ENQUIRY RE MICA INDUSTRY OF BIHAR

Mr. Satya Narayan Sinha: (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state if it is a fact that a Committee of Enquiry by the Central Government regarding Mica Industry of Bihar has been appointed or is going to be appointed

(b) Is the Honourable Member aware that a constitution of the said enquiry is beyond the jurisdiction of the Federal Legislative list?

(c) If the reply be in the affirmative will the Honourable Member be pleased to state the reason for such encroachment upon the Provincial Legislative List as set out in the Seventh Schedule to the Government of India Act, 1935

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) Yes, the Committee has been appointed

(b) and (c) In appointing the Committee the Central Government proceeded on the view that no such encroachment was involved, but the Honourable Member is of course free to form his own opinion

Mr. Satya Narayan Sinha: Will the Honourable Member please state under what section of the Government of India Act has the action been taken?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdul Rahim) Presumably Government have acted upon their own responsibility

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT

HUMILIATING SEARCH OF THE PERSON OF AN INDIAN PASSENGER BY DHANUSHKODI CUSTOMS OFFICERS

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdul Rahim) I have received notice of a motion for adjournment from Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh relating to "the humiliating search of the person of an Indian passenger by Dhanushkodi Customs officers by ordering him to strip himself of his clothes in the presence of the public"

When did this happen?

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh (Nagpur Division Non-Muhammadaui) Very recently. The news appeared in the Colombo papers (*Ceylon Observer*) on November the 17th and it was received here on the 18th

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdul Rahim) Where is this Dhanushkodi?

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: It is in South India

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdul Rahim) Is it a fact that the person was ordered to strip himself entirely naked?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman (Finance Member) I have no information whatsoever. I presume that the Honourable Member's information is based on the newspaper report which appeared in the *Hindustan Times* this morning, in which the *Ceylon Observer* is reported to have stated

"that sometimes a passenger is asked to strip himself in public in order that his person may be thoroughly searched. We believe that one of these denuded victims was an Indian so that it may not be true that Dhanushkodi customs officers were inspired by anti-Ceylonese animus"

Sir, I cannot find that any definite incident has been reported on any particular date. The statement occurs in the course of an article in the Ceylonese paper, which is complaining that the Dhanushkodi customs officers are unfair to Ceylonese emigrants and the paper goes on to mention, incidentally, that they think that Indians also have been subjected to this sort of examination

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) No date or a definite incident is mentioned there

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: It was because of this incident, Sir, that the *Ceylon Observer* had to write this paragraph

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) Are Customs Officers authorised to search the person of anyone suspected of smuggling?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Yes, Sir. The customs search does include the search of the person and it is very common that smuggling of such articles as gold, for instance, is carried out by smuggling it about the person, even in intimate garments but I do not know whether these searches are conducted in public. In my experience it used not to be conducted in public. If that is what my Honourable friend is concerned about, I can say that I shall have the matter carefully looked into.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) I think that ought to be sufficient

Mr. Sri Prakasa (Allahabad and Jhansi Divisions Non-Muhammadan Rural) The Customs people already carefully look into everything! Why need the Honourable Member want to have a peep in?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) In view of the assurance given by the Honourable the Finance Member there is no good reason for adjourning the business of the House. I therefore disallow the motion.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE AMENDMENT TO STANDING ORDERS

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) I have to inform the Assembly that up to 12 Noon on Friday, the 17th November, 1944 the time fixed for receiving nominations for the Select Committee on the Amendment of Standing Orders, nine nominations were received. Subsequently two candidates withdrew their candidature. As the number of remaining candidates is equal to the number of vacancies, I declare the following Members to be duly elected, namely: (1) The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed, (2) Sir George Spence, (3) Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan, (4) Mr H A Sathar H Essak Sait, (5) Mr Bhulabhai J Desai, (6) Dr P N Banerjee, (7) Mr C P Lawson

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE FOR THE INDUSTRIES AND CIVIL SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) I have also to inform the Assembly that the following Members have been elected to serve as members to the Standing Committee for the Department of Industries and Civil Supplies: (1) Mr Hoosembhoy A Lalljee, (2) Nawab Siddique Ali Khan, (3) Mr A C Inskip, (4) Mr Manu Subedar, (5) Mr Muhammad Nauman, (6) Mr Sami Vencatachellam Chetty

THE HINDU CODE, PART I (INTESTATE SUCCESSION)

PRESENTATION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS

Mr. Deputy President (Mr Akhil Chandra Datta) Sir, I beg to present the Report of the Committee on Petitions on the Bill to amend and codify the Hindu Law relating to intestate succession

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE FIFTH LABOUR CONFERENCE AND THE FOURTH MEETING OF THE STANDING LABOUR COMMITTEE

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar (Labour Member) Sir, I lay on the table a copy each of the Summary* of Proceedings of the Fifth Labour Conference held at New Delhi on the 6th and 7th September 1943 and the Fourth Meeting of the Standing Labour Committee held at Lucknow on the 25th and 26th January 1944

*Not printed in these Debates, but copies have been placed in the Library of the House—Ed. of D

ELECTION OF A MEMBER TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE FOR THE FOOD DEPARTMENT

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava (Food Member) Sir, I move
"That this Assembly do proceed to elect in such manner as the Honourable the President may direct one non-official member vice Mr. S. C. Chatterjee, M.L.A., resigned, to serve on the Standing Committee to advise on subjects in the Department of Food during the Financial year 1944-45."

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) Motion moved
"That this Assembly do proceed to elect in such manner as the Honourable the President may direct one non-official member vice Mr. S. C. Chatterjee, M.L.A., resigned, to serve on the Standing Committee to advise on subjects in the Department of Food during the Financial year 1944-45."

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghami (Tirhut Division Muhammadan) Sir, during the last Session this Standing Committee was formed. I want to know from the Honourable Member how many meetings there have been and the substance of the proceedings of such meetings, because we are not supplied with the proceedings of this committee.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: As far as I remember, one meeting has been held last July, and it is intended to hold another meeting very shortly. As regards the proceedings I shall look into the matter.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) The question is
"That this Assembly do proceed to elect in such manner as the Honourable the President may direct one non-official member vice Mr. S. C. Chatterjee, M.L.A., resigned, to serve on the Standing Committee to advise on subjects in the Department of Food during the Financial year 1944-45."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) I have to inform Honourable Members that for the purpose of the election of one non-official member to serve on the Standing Committee for the Food Department in place of Mr. S. C. Chatterjee, resigned, the Notice Office will be open to receive nominations up to 5 P.M. today and that the election, if necessary, will be held in the Assistant Secretary's room in the Council House, New Delhi, between the hours of 10-30 A.M. to 1 P.M. tomorrow. The election will be conducted in accordance with the principle of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote.

THE BANKING COMPANIES BILL

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Ralsman (Finance Member) Sir, I move

"That the Bill to consolidate and amend the Law relating to banking companies be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon."

Mr. Sri Prakasa (Allahabad and Jhansi Divisions Non-Muhammadan Rural) Till what date?

Dr. P. N. Banerjee (Calcutta Suburbs Non-Muhammadan Urban) Yes, you will have to mention the date.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Ralsman: This measure attempts to deal comprehensively with a subject which has exercised the public mind in this country for several years past. Banks, which serve as the repositories of the cash resources of the public and as the financing agents of trade and industry play a vital part in the economic and financial life of a country. The business of banking has therefore been rightly regarded as being in the nature of a public service and this necessitates and justifies legislative safeguards for the protection of depositors and for ensuring the growth of banking institutions on lines which experience has proved to be sound. As the House is aware, many important countries like the United States of America have adopted special laws for the regulation of banking. Even in Great Britain a fairly elaborate Joint Stock Bank Act was enacted as early as 1844, though subsequent developments and the growth of sound banking traditions have made this legislation superfluous in that country. The nature and scope of banking laws in different countries have varied widely according to their individual circumstances and requirements. The problem of banking legislation has presented exceptional difficulties in this country where banking is an indigenous activity

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of long standing which has developed on its own lines with its own instruments for the transfer of value and recording of obligations, so that here it is not merely a question of applying models which might be suitable for other countries. The demand for banking legislation in India is very old. Public attention was particularly drawn to the necessity of such legislation by the banking crisis of 1913-14 and more recently by the crisis in South India in 1938. The extent of public interest in the question was revealed by the evidence tendered before the Central and Provincial Banking Inquiry Committees which reported in 1930 to 1931. The Central Committee recommended the enactment of a comprehensive banking Act covering the organisation, management, audits and liquidation of banking companies. Some of the more important recommendations of this committee were considered by this House when the Indian Companies (Amendment) Act of 1936 was passed. Before the passing of the Indian Companies (Amendment) Act of 1936 which added a separate chapter regarding banking companies to the Companies Act banks were governed in all important matters, such as incorporation, management, liquidation, by the provisions of the Companies Act, which was applicable to banking as well as to other companies. There were, however, a few provisions in this Act which drew a distinction between banking and non-banking companies, such as section 4 which prohibited a partnership exceeding ten in number from carrying on the business of banking unless it was registered as a company section 136 which required banking and certain other companies to make a statement of their business every half year. The amending Act of 1936 drew a clear distinction between banking and non-banking companies by defining for the first time the scope of business of banking companies. As the House is aware this Act also made certain other important provisions for banking companies, such as the requirement of a minimum capital of Rs. 50,000 before a banking company could commence business, the prohibition on the employment of managing agents other than banks, the prohibition of a charge on unpaid capital, the restriction on the nature of subsidiary companies and the provision for a moratorium under certain circumstances and for the maintenance of cash reserves and reserve funds by non-scheduled banks.

An event of the greatest significance for Indian banking occurred in 1935 when the Reserve Bank of India was established. Hardly a year and a half had passed since the coming into force of the amending Act of 1936 when the banking crisis of South India in 1938 not only raised, in an acute form, the issue of the relations of banks in the country with the Reserve Bank but also drew again the attention of the public to the desirability of comprehensive legislation on the subject of banking. The difficulties experienced in administering the existing provisions of law also rendered necessary a re-examination of the problem. It was felt that there was a need for legislation which would do for banking what the Companies Act and the Insurance Act had done for companies generally and for insurance. The Central Board of the Reserve Bank of India gave then careful consideration to the question and submitted certain proposals for legislation in November 1939. These proposals, as Honourable Members might perhaps recall, were circulated by the Government early in 1940 for public opinion. In view of the abnormal circumstances created by the war and the great diversity of opinions which replies from the public revealed the Government decided that it was inappropriate to undertake comprehensive legislation which was likely to prove highly controversial. The Government, however, undertook legislation on certain non-controversial and urgent matters and two interim measures have been passed during the last two years, namely, the Indian Companies (Second Amendment) Act, 1942, relating to the definition of banking companies and the Indian Companies (Amendment) Act, 1944, relating to the capital structure and management of such companies. The development of banking during the last four years, more particularly the rapid growth of banking resources and of the number of banks and branches have again drawn attention to the desirability of a comprehensive

Act, the need for which is felt to be ever greater because of possible reactions after the war. Further, the favourable turn of the war situation has emphasized the urgency of devoting attention, in this as in other spheres, to the problems that will arise in the post-war period. For these reasons, the Central Board of the Reserve Bank have reviewed their original proposals of 1939 in the light of subsequent developments and experience and have submitted to the Government a revised draft of a comprehensive banking Bill which is now before the House.

The provisions of the Bill are based on the general principle that the primary objective of banking legislation must be to safeguard the interest of the depositor, as the objective of the Companies Law is to safeguard the interest of the stock holder and that of Insurance law to safeguard the interest of the policy holder. These provisions also attempt to ensure that the development of banking proceeds on sound lines since it is obviously in the interest of the general development of the country that the savings of the community should be deposited with banks as a preferable alternative to hoarding and as a preliminary to investment in Government loans or industrial enterprises. The Bill does not, however, attempt to cover all institutions dealing in credit or all those engaged in the numerous forms of lending operations. In particular, it does not include in its scope industrial concerns which accept time deposits from the public. An attempt to include all institutions and individuals within the scope of a single Bill would be too ambitious in view of the complex credit structure of the country, nor does it seem appropriate in the conditions at present prevailing in India to attempt more detailed legislation covering the various activities of banks such as has been enacted in the United States of America and some other countries. Moreover, even if such detailed legislation were to be enacted, we have not the machinery at present to undertake the responsibility of its administration, such as a sufficiency of experienced personnel for inspection and other purposes.

With these general observations, Sir, I now turn to the main features of the Bill. In the first place, the Bill attempts to prescribe a simple definition of banking. The object is to limit, by connecting banking with the acceptance of deposits repayable on demand, the scope of the legislation to institutions in which funds are deposited primarily to ensure their safety and ready withdrawal. Secondly, an attempt has been made to prescribe a certain minimum capital standard considered essential for a bank in accordance with the scale and area of its operations. Thirdly, the Bill prohibits trading directly or indirectly by banking institutions and provides for certain moderate restrictions on investments to eliminate non-banking risks and to ensure that the loss of a depositor will be limited in the event of the failure of a bank. Fourthly, in the light of the experience of the banking failure in South India in 1938 an attempt has been made to make our banking legislation as much applicable to banks incorporated or registered outside as to those incorporated or registered in British India. Fifthly, provision has been made to expedite liquidation proceedings of banks in view of the cumbersome procedure under the Companies Act. Sixthly in the light of the experience gained by the Reserve Bank in inspecting banks under section 42(6) of the Reserve Bank Act, a provision has been included empowering the Central Government to call upon a bank for certain reasons to submit its books and accounts for inspection by the Reserve Bank. Seventhly, powers have been conferred on the Central Government to impose certain penalties when it is satisfied that the affairs of a bank incorporated inside or outside British India are being conducted in a manner detrimental to the interest of British Indian depositors. Lastly, a special form of balance sheet has been prescribed for banking companies and powers have been given to the Reserve Bank to call for periodical returns from banks so that it may have more detailed information regarding the banking situation in the country than it has at present for the purpose of watching over the progress of banking.

This Bill, Sir, represents, as I trust the House will agree, an earnest effort on the part of the Government to ensure, in so far as it can be done by

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legislation, the protection of the depositor and the growth of banking in India on sound lines. The original proposals submitted by the Reserve Bank were, as I have mentioned, circulated for public opinion. Many valuable comments were then received and these have been carefully studied. The banking developments during the interval have been numerous and rapid and the whole matter has been considered afresh. The proposals now made by the Reserve Bank contain some important new features such as the revised definition of banking, the prohibition against trading, the provision for inspection by the Reserve Bank, the powers of the Reserve Bank to call for certain returns and the appointment of the Reserve Bank as official liquidator. It seems advisable, therefore, that an opportunity should be afforded to the public to express their opinion formally on the proposed legislation. For these reasons the motion which I now make is for the circulation of the Bill.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) Motion moved

"That the Bill to consolidate and amend the law relating to banking companies be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon."

Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta (Chittagong and Rajshahi Divisions Non-Muhammadan Rural) Sir, I rise to support this motion for circulation. The Honourable Mover has said two things. He has said that it is a comprehensive banking legislation and he has also said that in some matters it is a controversial measure. Therefore, it is only proper that the public should be given an opportunity of expressing its opinion on it. I, therefore, think that it is a very wise motion and I support it.

Sir, I support not only the motion for circulation but I think I am in a position to give my whole-hearted general support to the Bill also. Although in the Statement of Objects and Reasons and also in the Preamble it is stated that the Bill is for consolidating and amending the law relating to banking, I do not think it is a correct and precise description because it appears from the provisions of the Bill and it also transpired from the speech of the Honourable Member which he made just now that many new important provisions have been introduced. Therefore, the circulation of the Bill is necessary. Although the provisions are new, I think, on the whole and speaking generally, I am in a position to support the Bill subject to comments and criticisms on individual clauses and details.

Sir, the object of the Bill as has been described by the Honourable Mover, is two-fold: to safeguard the interests of the depositors and to ensure development of banking in India on sound lines. These objects are perfectly acceptable to us. A separate banking legislation has long been overdue.

The main features of the new provisions have been stated at length by the Honourable Mover and they are given also in the Statement of Objects and Reasons. I shall make a few comments on these main features of the Bill.

I come first to the definition of 'banking'. I would like to point out that I feel great difficulty here. This definition is given in clause 5(b) of the Bill. It says "Banking means the accepting of deposits repayable on demand." Now, Sir, there was no definition of 'banking' given in the Act of 1936. In that Act definition was given of a 'banking company' in section 277F. That definition is

"A banking company means a company which carries on as its principal business acceptance of deposits of money on current account or otherwise."

In other words, it can accept current deposits and fixed deposits. But here in the Bill before us 'banking' has been defined as "the accepting of deposits repayable on demand." What troubles me is whether this Bill is not intended to govern the banks which accept not only current deposits but also fixed deposits, time-liabilities? That trouble becomes all the greater in view of the statement made in the Statement of Objects and Reasons and also in view of the statement made by the Honourable Mover in his speech. In the Statement of Objects and Reasons it is said:

"A simple definition of banking with the object of limiting the scope of the legislation to institutions in which the funds are deposited primarily to ensure their safety and ready withdrawability."

The definition of 'banking' as given in clause 5(b) coupled with the limited scope of the Bill suggested in the Statement of Objects and Reasons tend to show that all these new provisions will not apply to a bank, accepting time-liabilities. That is my difficulty. I do not know how to reconcile this definition with the function of a bank in accepting time-liabilities.

Then, as regards the protection to the depositors. I wish to say at once that all the provisions relating to this, namely, clauses 13, 14, 18 and 19, have my support.

As regards the prescription of the minimum capital standard, the provision is in clause 11. I do not object to that principle, there should be a minimum laid down but I do not want at this stage to go into the details of the provision as to what should be the minimum capital. But I feel one great difficulty with regard to the question of minimum capital standard. We have got the Defence of India Rule—Rule 94-A which prohibits the raising of further capital without the consent of the Central Government. The present Bill lays down quite the reverse. Clause 11 says, you must increase your capital upto a certain standard. But Rule 94-A says, you must not increase your capital. So, unless the Ordinance is repealed this provision becomes unworkable. The legislature should not lay down two contradictory principles. This provision relates entirely to small institutions and not to big Banks. Unless the real intention is to kill the small Banks by this provision, Rule 94-A should be repealed forthwith.

Then there is the important question of inspection of Bank accounts by the Reserve Bank. This is contained in clause 28(1). We do not object to inspection. But I am very keen that there must not be interference in the internal management. There is no law giving the right to the Reserve Bank to inspect Bank accounts and papers. But as a matter of fact, the Reserve Bank does inspect Bank accounts, whenever and wherever they choose to do so and as far as I am aware, no banks have up to now objected to that power being exercised by the Reserve Bank. There are three or four circumstances under which power is given to the Reserve Bank to inspect the Bank accounts. I do not mind all these reasons except one. The reasons given are

"if it has any reason to believe that the interests of the depositors of a Banking company are in danger."

This is a very good reason for the Reserve Bank to inspect

"a Banking company is unable to meet its obligations."

That is another good ground.

"has made default in complying with any of the provisions of this Act."

I have no objection to this either. The next ground however is this—

"or that an offence under this Act has been or is likely to be committed by a Banking company or any officer of a Banking company."

I do not think it is fair that in anticipation that a Bank or officer of a bank is likely to do something, you should have a disciplinary measure. I think this is a safeguard which is quite unnecessary. I am not at all against rigid regulations being enacted so that the banking people might be more alert and conform to the banking rules. At the same time I want to make one observation. Many new powers are given to the Reserve Bank and new obligation, however wholesome they may be are cast upon the banks. The question is, what do the banks get in return? What is the corresponding obligation laid upon the Reserve Bank? There is section 42 of the Reserve Bank Act which makes deposits by the Scheduled Banks compulsory. When the Reserve Bank Act was passed, there was vehement opposition to that provision of compulsory deposits by the Scheduled Banks. The Scheduled Banks are not all of them big banks. They are most of them small banks and great hardship is caused to them by such compulsory deposits. Many of the Scheduled Banks are all run on small capital and with small amount of deposits from the public. These small banks take deposits from the public and pay interest

[Mr Akhil Chandra Datta]
on such deposits. At the same time, they are obliged to make compulsory deposits in the Reserve Bank on which they receive no interest. This is very unfair. This provision of compulsory deposit should be repealed. Until this provision is repealed the amount of deposit may at all events be reduced. May I also suggest that the deposits may be allowed to be made in Government promissory notes or other approved securities. Why should it be insisted that the deposit should be in cash? If deposits are allowed in the form of Government securities, then the Scheduled Banks will not suffer, because they will get interest on those deposits. I invite the attention of the Honourable the Finance Member to this hardship on the part of the Scheduled Banks and request him to consider the advisability of giving relief to the Scheduled Banks. An appreciable percentage of the deposits held with the Reserve Bank and inevitably makes the scheduled banks financially weaker.

So, this is not the time for going into details but I may say that on the whole I am in favour of the stringent regulations introduced here. There are one or two other points to which I would invite the special attention of the Honourable Finance Member. For instance, clause 8 seeks to impose a prohibition on trading with a view to eliminate non-banking risks. It seems to me that this matter which is very controversial should be examined very carefully because it prohibits any banking company from directly or indirectly dealing in the buying or selling or bartering of goods. Then follows a provision which is very drastic, *viz.*, that no banking company shall engage in any trading; it shall not "engage in any trade, or buy or sell or barter goods or articles of merchandise for others".

Now take a case where some money is advanced by a bank against some goods which are kept in the custody of the bank and suppose the party fails to pay and it becomes necessary to sell the goods.—I do not know if that is prohibited under clause 8. I have not examined the law of other countries on this point but I am told that this kind of prohibition is not provided in the banking law of any other country. It will cripple the activities of banks in this country and the matter requires more careful investigation. Of course after opinions have been received we will be in a better position to decide to what extent, if any, the prohibition may possibly go. Speaking for myself, I am of the opinion that the clause as it stands is too drastic and should at all events be modified.

One word more even at the risk of repetition. A good deal of power and control, as I said, is given to the Reserve Bank, but what will be the compensation for our banks? Is it meant that the Reserve Bank will only exercise control, call for returns and have inspections and large amounts of deposits from the Scheduled Banks? Is it in the contemplation of Government that all these powers and advantages should be given to the Reserve Bank without any corresponding advantages to our banks? I think that if the Reserve Bank wants all these advantages and controls, it should also be the duty of the Reserve Bank to educate and help the smaller institutions. It is one thing merely to control and another thing to guide and help and educate them. Is there any machinery in the Reserve Bank for doing this very important function? It is of course desired that the banking system should be conducted on sound lines, on that there can be no two opinions. But what is done by the Reserve Bank to educate these new and small institutions in this country? So far as that is concerned, I think this Bill places a one-sided obligation on the banks only and no obligation on the Reserve Bank. We do hope that help and guidance will be given by the Reserve Bank, whenever necessary, but there is no provision like that in this Bill.

Sir, I support this motion for circulation. By the way, may I ask the Finance Member when he intends to have the Select Committee and to have the Bill passed?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I was hoping to move for reference of the Bill to Select Committee some time in the course of the next Session.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar (Salem and Coimbatore cum North Arcot Non-Muhammadan Rural) Sir, banking today is much more important than it was before. People have got into the deposit habit and into the habit of issuing cheques, and so it is necessary that the Government of the country should come forward with a Bill to regulate it. It is somewhat late in the day, but I am glad it has come at last. For the last fifteen years this matter of banking legislation has been agitating the mind of the people of this country. In going through this Bill I should like to draw the attention of the Finance Member and of the House to three aspects of the Bill, the first aspect is that on which we are generally agreed, the second aspect relates to things on which we think amendments are necessary, and the third aspect relates to things which we think have not been included in this Bill but which we think it advisable to include in it.

So, before coming to the clauses themselves I should like to say one word with regard to the definition of banking. Undoubtedly the definition of this word presents problems, and I find that in the banking laws of many countries this word has not been defined in the same way as other words are defined. The Banking Inquiry Committee in their report have said that they have found difficulties in defining this word. While I am not prepared to put forward any definite definition of this word I would only point out the difficulties that will arise from the acceptance of the definition given in the Bill itself. The Bill says:

"Banking means the accepting of deposits to be payable on demand."

Of course it does not limit the work of the bank to that. It can do any of those things which are particularised in clause 6. But our difficulty in accepting this definition is this. I am coming from an industrial area where there are many industrial concerns, textile mills and other things, and what I find in these mills is that in most of these companies for the financing of these industrial concerns deposits are accepted. The Honourable Member will run round and say that fixed deposits may be accepted because that is not barred by the definition of banking given here. I may point out that in many of these concerns current accounts are held not by cheque books and account books but by what we call book adjustments. I do not know whether he is aware of that system, but we have it in South India where transactions between two parties are done with books, cheques are not issued but through book adjustments current accounts are maintained. The difficulty will be that if this definition is given many of these concerns which are admittedly business concerns cannot do business because people who do this sort of banking cannot under this definition do business at all owing to a later clause. And so I would suggest that a little more elaborate definition of banking may be given and if I may suggest a few ideas on that matter, I would draw attention to page 153 of the report of the Central Banking Inquiry Committee in which they have quoted with approval Sir John Pagett's definition and suggestions about defining banking. They say:

"No one and nobody, corporate or otherwise can be a banker who does not take deposit accounts, take current accounts, issue and pay cheques drawn on him or in collecting cheques crossed or uncrossed for his customers."

If you take these four points in the suggestion together in the definition of banking, this will be a workable definition of banking because every bank worth the name will issue, pay or collect crossed and uncrossed cheques. This is a duty which any bank can discharge and so, Sir, I would suggest for the consideration of the Select Committee which is going to be constituted and for the guidance of the public opinion which is to be sought that the definition of banking given here may be enlarged.

Next I come to some of the clauses to which I agree. Firstly, clause 8—Prohibition of trading. Certainly banks which have dabbled in trade have come to lose, and in the interest of good banking that must be tabooed.

Secondly, clause 10—Prohibition of employment of managing agents, etc. That also is a thing with which I am in general agreement. Then clause 11 about the enforcement of a minimum capital, while I accept the principle of

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that clause, I would like it to be considered whether the minimum fixed in the Bill itself is small enough for smaller banks in villages to be conducted for the purpose of village trade. Today most of the village trade is conducted by individual bankers or co-operative societies, but co-operative societies do not come within the scope of this Bill. I would suggest whether in a poor country like India where it has to serve lakhs of villages, a smaller amount may not be advisable.

Now, Sir, I come to certain recommendations of the Banking Enquiry Committee which have not been accepted by this Bill. These are the recommendations which I think should be accepted. Sir, I will read what is stated on 457 of the Report of the Banking Enquiry Committee.

"We recommend that there should be a provision in the Act requiring that every institution doing banking business in British India, other than a foreign bank, should have a majority of natural born or domiciled Indian Directors. We are of opinion that such a provision is essential for the regulation of a service of national importance such as banking."

The reason why we think that such a regulation is necessary is this. We have experience of some foreign banks and we have found in some banks that at critical times when the sympathy and help of the bank are necessary in the interest of their customers they have chosen just that time for demanding payment, and it is our experience that some men have fallen down and floundered because of these demands. One of the reasons which we think has been the guiding motive of some of those banks is that there may be a competitor in the field who may not be an Indian—who may be a Britisher—and who may wish to see that this man comes to ruin and these people, Sir, may have an influence with the directors of the bank. Therefore, we feel, Sir, that in a matter of national concern like banking a provision like this is necessary and will be useful. The Banking Enquiry Committee Report further says:

"We consider that some safeguards are necessary to prevent the control and management of such a service passing into foreign hands and that unless non-nationals are precluded from having a preponderating voice in the management of banks operating in this country it would not be possible to give effect to any national policy that might be evolved for the development of banking in the interest of India."

Then, Sir, I come to clause 13—Reserve fund. The reserve fund as proposed in this clause regulates reserves in this way:

"before any dividend is declared transfer of a sum equivalent to not less than twenty per cent of such profits to the reserve fund until the amount of the said fund is equal to the paid-up capital."

The Banking Enquiry Committee also advocates building up of a reserve, but they suggest something else. They suggest that a portion of the capital itself should be set apart—if I remember aright, it is $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent—as a reserve fund, so that whatever may be the profits that accrue to the banking company in a particular year, a reserve will be built up and in lean years the bank will be in a position to face bad times, if necessary.

The Honourable Member said that the general motive behind a banking enactment should be the protection of the depositor. We agree. But we would like to go further and say that the law should make provision for the protection of the poor depositor and for the savings bank deposits. Government must give priority to the protection of these depositors. The Banking Enquiry Committee have not accepted that position.

"It has been suggested that depositors of small amounts should be given protection and preference by law and that in the case of liquidation savings deposits should be given priority over other deposits."

This recommendation, I see, was not accepted by the Central Banking Enquiry Committee, but we think that for reasons mentioned in the words that I have read out it is necessary that the poor man should be given a little more protection than the rich man because in the case of the poor man it is all that he has got whereas the rich man may have a lot more. So we think that it should be provided that savings deposits should be given greater protection. In clause 16 I find restrictions on loans and advances. The Banking Enquiry

Committee have recommended that auditors of the banks concerned also should be banned from taking loans from concerned banks. I think that auditors may also be included under that clause.

Now I would refer to another matter. The Banking Enquiry Committee while going into the reasons for the fall of banks, has given many reasons. It is not possible to prevent all the risks by legislation. Some risks are inherent in the persons who manage the banks. That cannot be prevented by legislation. But there are certain things which can be prevented by legislation and one of them is at clause (f) which they mention on page 452 of the report "Utilisation of short-term deposits at long-term loans."

We have found in our part of the country that there are many banks which go under the name of *Nidhis*. They have a paid-up capital of one lakh or so. They do extensive business. They take deposits. Many of them have come to ruin in recent years and when examined we find that one of the reasons why many of these small banking concerns, came to ruin was that their short-term deposits were utilised in long-term loans. They got deposits for one or two years and they gave money on mortgages which covered 8, 10 or 14 years, with the result that sometimes the deposits were asked to be paid, but they could not pay and that undermined their credit and many of them had to be liquidated.

So I would suggest that provision should be made that these short-term deposits should not be used for long-term investments except in a certain proportion as may be laid down in the Act itself, short-term deposits should be given only for short-term loans and long-term deposits for long-term loans. This will be healthy and it will go to build up the real foundations of the bank.

There is one other matter to which I would like to refer and which is not provided for in the Bill. As we all know, if the banking habit is to grow, if the banks are to be conducted properly, we want a trained personnel as in everything else. I would like that provision should be made in the larger banks by legislative enactment, that every one of these banks should give compulsory training to a number of candidates who may undergo the training and be useful to the country at large. I know some banks take people whom they train and engage in their own banks, but that is not what I refer to. What I refer to is the training, after the training those banks may take them or they may not. Such training is of general usefulness to the country. They may get themselves employed in smaller banks or any other business. Their training will be for the good of banking in general. As far as I see no provision has been made for such training anywhere in this Bill and I would think that a provision like that would be useful for the growth of sound banking in this country.

Sir, generally we support this Bill.

The Assembly then adjourned for Lunch till Half Past Two of the Clock.

The Assembly re-assembled after Lunch at Half Past Two of the Clock,
Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta) in the Chair.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari (Tanjore *cum* Trichinopoly Non-Muhammadan Rural). Mr. Deputy President, I rise to congratulate my Honourable friend the Finance Member on having brought forward this measure, notwithstanding the fact that about the year 1939 the enactment of a Banking legislation was abandoned owing to the prevalence of war conditions. Sir, as the speakers before me have mentioned, there is an urgent need for banking legislation. Some of the provisions of this Bill are perhaps such as may not evoke any serious criticism but, again, there are a few provisions which could usefully be modified. Before, however, going into the scope of the Bill, I would like to refer to clause 2 of the Bill relating to "Application of other laws not barred". In itself it appears unimportant but when the Government of India propose to

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enact a legislation in order to consolidate and amend the law relating to banking, one would expect that it will include the activities of all banks in this country, excepting the Reserve Bank of India, which is controlled by a separate Act.

Sir, the House is aware that there is a very big institution in this country called the Imperial Bank of India which, for reasons fairly well known, has developed to a size which is perhaps almost unparalleled anywhere, except in the case of *Banque de France* of pre-war France. In fact in a book which I have before me by Prof. Murman published in 1910, the author says that the total amount of deposits or funds available with the Imperial Bank of India is about a third of all the other banking institutions in this country put together. It was a fact that this concern has had to be supported by an Act, because it was doing in the past the business of a Central Bank, acting as the agent of the Government in regard to its treasury and public debt operations. With the coming into existence of the Reserve Bank certain provisions of the Imperial Bank Act had become unnecessary and those provisions were amended in 1934 and with that amendment the control exercised by the Governor General in Council, either in the matter of the appointment of the Central Board or the appointment of the Managing Governors of the Bank, has been withdrawn. But, I believe, certain sections of the Imperial Bank of India Act still give it wide powers in that it can take over the business of certain other banks and for that purpose has facilities for increasing its capital, it can do all that with the consent of the Governor General in Council, so that the position enjoyed by the Imperial Bank of India as a supreme bank in this country still exists in a large measure. Another reason why that bank continues in its importance is that it acts as the Agent of the Reserve Bank of India and still manages the treasury operations of the Government, whereas the Reserve Bank has not got a branch of its own. But this is not the time and place for me to criticise the Government of India for permitting an institution like the Imperial Bank of India to continue to do a large part of its old functions and to earn from the Reserve Bank of India and therefore from the Government of India a sum of 56 lakhs of rupees as commission for the agency operations done by the Bank as it did last year and considering the fact that the total profits of the Imperial Bank last year were in the region of 80 lakhs, Rs. 56 lakhs paid by the Reserve Bank was a very comfortable addition to the funds available with the Imperial Bank for distribution as profits.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: The profits of the Reserve Bank of India last year were many crores.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: Though I am very grateful to my Honourable friend for the information an information which is also vouchsafed to us by the Reserve Bank, I nevertheless feel that it does not affect the issue, that 56 lakhs of what was legitimately the taxpayers' money has been put into the pockets of an institution which carries on its business under cover of an Act of the Government of India, which is wholly non-Indian in its control and management, whose outlook is completely alien to the interests of this country and which has not even accepted the recommendations for Indianisation made by the Central Banking Enquiry Committee at the time when it reported and when it also recommended that the Imperial Bank of India should for sometime to come act as the agent of the Reserve Bank of India. Sir, if the Government of India thinks that it is time for it to bring forward a banking legislation, I should have expected that they would have conducted a survey of the position in this country, that they would have noted the dominant position of the Imperial Bank of India and that that position still continues notwithstanding the emergence of the Reserve Bank of India. I say, Sir, that 56 lakhs which has been paid by the Reserve Bank of India, which incidentally has no relation to the profits that it makes, would have strengthened indigenous institutions considerably were it put into their pockets. This Act will probably

be passed into law and it would be a very good thing. The Reserve Bank Act is there. The Imperial Bank Act is also there and in my view it need no longer exist as a separate Act once a general Bank Act is enacted. The Imperial Bank of India is a tumour in the body politic of this country which could be very safely excised and taken away without injuring in any way either the financial or the economic structure of this country. I do not want, Sir, at this stage of the proceedings to dilate further either on the inequities of the Imperial Bank or on the inequities of the Government of India which allows it to function without any check after the establishment of the Reserve Bank or on the offences of omission on the part of the Government of India in not extending the scope of the work of the Reserve Bank, so as to embrace much of the work that the Imperial Bank does as its agent or again on that act of omission on the part of the Government of India in not asking the Reserve Bank to employ joint stock banks as its agents at a later stage, a recommendation which was made by the Banking Enquiry Committee. I only hope that by reason of the fact that I have mentioned all the Government of India and the Honourable the Finance Member will use their good offices to see that in the new future when there will be a possibility of the Reserve Bank of India revising its agreement with the Imperial Bank of India, that supreme position which the Imperial Bank enjoys today as the agent of the Reserve Bank and therefore as the Agent of the Government of India will cease to exist and some if not a good portion of this Rs. 56 lakhs which is paid to the Imperial Bank by the Reserve Bank be paid to some of the Indian joint stock banks, which are the subject matter of this Bill. That ends my reference to the Imperial Bank.

With regard to the Bill itself I said at the out-set that I welcome it. But there are a few points where the Bill has departed, I am afraid not very wisely from the proposals made by the late Sir James Taylor in 1939. Again there are one or two points in which some amendments have been made, which are quite useful. I will take up the question that was dealt with by my Honourable friend from Coimbatore, the question of definition of Banking. The original definition of banking in the proposal submitted in 1939 was—Banking means acceptance of deposits on current account or otherwise subject to withdrawal by cheque. That has been changed. Now banking means accepting of deposits repayable on demand. I do not say that it will be possible for any of us to devise a definition of banking which will suit all needs. But I do want to say here, because I would like the attention of those people who are going to submit their opinion on this particular Bill to the Government to be focussed on this point of how far this new definition will affect those institutions which receive deposits reference to which was made by my Honourable friend from Coimbatore, and whether it is right and proper for the Government and for the public to allow institutions to continue to exist as Banking institutions which do banking and also do other commercial transactions besides a thing which this Bill seeks to prohibit in clause 8. If the original definition had been stuck to, perhaps it would cover the cases of the larger institutions and leave the smaller ones out. Why it has been expanded now I am not able to understand. But I do not object to it on the ground that it seeks to embrace a larger body of people than what the original draft Bill sought to. In fact, if we are going to have a Banking Bill, let us have a good one, let us not allow any loopholes. I am not one of those who believe that in the matter of credit a considerable amount of freedom must be allowed. In a matter where public deposits are being handled by an institution, no amount of control which will at the same time not vitiate the scope of its operations, is wrong, and so if the Government could devise a definition which will embrace a large number of Banking concerns which are registered as joint stock companies within the scope of the Bill, I see no harm in it.

On the whole, I welcome clause 8, though it is a new one in that form. But in regard to clause 10, I am afraid there is a certain amount of ambiguity. The Government have to make up its mind as to what it wants to be done. In

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the Bill that has been introduced in regard to insurance, I think, the Government seeks to restrict the scope of persons acting as managers receiving commissions. What then is the policy of the Government going to be in regard to banking? As it is, this clause is rather vague. Either we want to have managing agents or we do not want to have them. Let the Government make up its mind straightaway that the Government will permit only such managing directors, as shall be paid a fixed salary. I do not mind if they are appointed for five years in the first instance and thereafter for further period of five years—it is quite reasonable. But the Government will have to make up its mind whether they are to be people who are paid a commission or are paid a salary. It would be much better in the interests of these institutions developing in the future on the right lines that the Government should take courage in its hands and says "Let these people be given a salary, however fantastically the sums so paid may be, rather than make them depend on commissions or on a *pro rata* share in the profits."

One point, however, on which I am afraid I am unable to agree with the text of the Bill is in regard to restrictions on commencement of business and the conditions for carrying on of business. I agree that branch banking must be controlled. I agree that the capital of a bank must be adequate and must bear some proportion, in a very rough way at any rate, to the quantum of transactions that pass through it. But then this question of relating its capital to particular areas on a population basis is a thing which does not appeal to me at all. It is a fact that this kind of classification and restriction is followed in some countries—notably in the United States and this practice existed in Italy and in Japan before the war. But it is not followed in any other country. I think the idea of relating the capital structure of a bank to the population of the area or town or city in which it operates looks to us at first sight as quite reasonable, but does it mean that a bank operates over the entire area of the town in which it is situated? It may be that if there is a bank operating in Delhi it may operate in New Delhi, all its constituents may be just in Connaught Place or it may operate in Chandni Chowk, and to say that a bank which operates in Delhi should have so much of capital because it operates in such a large city does not look very reasonable as it very rarely operates over the whole area covered by the city. Whatever may have been the reasons which in the United States made them adopt such a system after a long process of trial and error, that does not seem to me to be any valid reason why we should adopt this rigid rule. I am particularly interested in this clause because joint stock banking has developed to some considerable extent in my own province, and there now exist institutions which are conducted reasonably efficiently and reasonably honestly, and to put these institutions in a strait-jacket, similar to what is contemplated in clause 11, is, I think, stifling the growth of institutions which have so far been doing a lot of good work, and is wholly unnecessary. The interests who will have to state their opinion on this particular clause will have to devise some other way of empowering the Central Government or its agent to regulate banking and perhaps by insisting upon a particular proportion of capital and reserves in relation to its total volume of business. But I find even in this clause a significant omission namely the realisation on the part of Government that branch banking has to be controlled. In fact, quite 50 per cent of what this clause proposes to do could be done by direct licensing and control of branch banking. Much of the trouble in regard to joint stock banks has been that they have been expanding rather rapidly to the detriment of their soundness. There is also another aspect of this question which I think the Government had better take note of. I do not want the Government of India to allow banks to develop freely without any check, let or hindrance. There is no point in every bank going and starting branches now in one province and extending to other provinces and opening branches in all kinds of places whether or not those branches are going to do any good to the people of the locality or whether they

will be cutting into the activities of the existing institutions. If the Government seeks to regulate Banking, it should not set itself the very limited scope of what a police state would conceive it to be just for the protection of depositors: in fact I was rather glad that my Honourable friend who started first by saying that the object of the Bill was to protect the depositors, subsequently said that it was the intention to provide for regulation of banking in the interests of the economic betterment of the country or something to that effect. What I want the Government of India to do is to realise that this function of a police state is definitely secondary and that the more important function is to regulate banking in order to make this country economically stable, in order that banking might serve the country and aid in the task of its economic betterment. With that end in view, I would rather like that clause 11 redrafted or perhaps some other clause put in which gives the Government power to regulate branch banking by means of licences to be given by the Reserve Bank or the Government of India, whichever happens to be the institution that will exercise its discretion, to say to an applicant seeking permission to open a branch 'Well, there are already lot of banks in such and such a place. We do not want undue competition. We do not want you to go and open a branch there.' Limit the activities of banks when actually they tend to enter the region of cut-throat competition. For one thing, I would like to see this rather arbitrary strait-jacket—of insisting on 5 lakhs capital for such and such a city, 2 lakhs for somewhere else and so on—altered suitably—to make it more flexible. Secondly, I should like that the regulation shall be done by means of using the discretion of whichever happens to be the machinery for carrying out the purpose of this Act, by restricting branch banking and by licensing it.

Sir, I welcome clause 17 not merely because it seeks to protect the British Indian investor and the British Indian depositor from the operation of banks floated in Indian States nearby, on which no vestige of control can be exercised by either the Provincial or the Central Government and which institutions seek to invite deposits by offering high rates of interest and subsequently put the people who deposit money with them in a quandary. I have undoubtedly in mind the debacle that happened in South India in 1938. At the same time, I take it that the licensing of banking companies incorporated outside British India will not merely cover the banks that are floated in Indian States but will cover all banks which are floated outside British India. If that is so, and if my interpretation is correct, I welcome it as being the first step in controlling the activities of all banks floated outside British India, including those foreign banks who carry on exchange operations in this country. In fact, Sir, I would like this particular clause to be split into two. Without really attempting to discriminate against any particular set of banks, the Government of India or its agents in this matter could be given the power to issue two sets of licences, one for those banks which are going to do ordinary joint stock banking and another for those banks which will be engaged on exchange business.

Sir, another clause about which I have a considerable amount of misgiving is clause 18. Clause 18, I see, is an improvement on the original proposals of 1939, which insisted that 80 per cent. of the assets of the bank should be maintained in cash or gold or in any approved securities. This has now been reduced to 25 per cent. In order to approve or disapprove of this condition, I have to take the House into some details of the operations of banks in this country. It is certainly true and it is also just that banks ought to keep a certain portion of their funds in a liquid state. The sole criterion in deciding upon the percentage is what amount would be needed in order that the bank might meet its immediate demands. It may be that most of the big banks in this country could keep or are keeping about 25 to 80 per cent. of their resources in a state of liquidity, either in cash or gold or Government securities but many others don't. One has to realise that, at any rate, in my province the function of smaller banks is largely to finance agricultural operations and the advances made are of a seasonal nature. Whether seasonal advances which are definitely short term, which will be returned within a very short

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period, are liquid or not is certainly a matter of interpretation but that liquidity would not come in within the scope of this particular section. What happens in my province is that for about 7 months of the year, or perhaps 8 months the smaller banks have nearly 50 to 60 per cent of their resources in cash or in approved securities. During the season when they have to make advances on grain and perhaps about 80 to 85 per cent of their total resources are invested and the operation of this clause will compel these banks to limit that very useful function which they are doing now and I think it will react very adversely on the agricultural economy of the country. My Honourable friend might tell me that, if they advance money in the proper form, on bills which could be negotiated or rediscounted with the Reserve Bank or with some of the bigger scheduled banks or by some other means some portions of their assets could be maintained in a state of liquidity so as to satisfy this condition. Therefore why should we not stick to the terms imposed by this clause? The fact is that when the Reserve Bank Act was passed and section 17 was framed and section 17(2) was also included therein, which allowed the Reserve Bank certain scope in the matter of going to the aid of its member banks, it was then felt that the bill habit in this country will grow. It was also felt then that the opening of public warehouses should be encouraged. The idea was that receipts from public warehouses could be made a negotiable security the bills covering which could be rediscounted with the Reserve Bank of India. That was what the Banking Inquiry Committee also had envisaged but today we find that all those ideal conditions have not come into being. The need which has to be filled is still there and if really the country had proceeded on the lines that the framers of the Reserve Bank Act had in mind it would have all been to the good. But that not being the case today and in view of the fact that smaller banks in my province are doing that very useful function of advancing money against seasonal agricultural operations, I think, Sir, the scope of section 18 in this Bill needs revision. I would like to draw the attention of the Honourable the Finance Member to a book, of which a copy I believe is in the library—'Commercial Banking Legislation' by Allen and several others, which while relating the experience of U S A in the matter of fixing the percentage of liquid assets says:

"After various types of restrictions fixing a definite percentage against time deposits and a definite percentage against demand deposits and so on, they ultimately (I mean the Committee appointed for the purpose by the Federal Reserve Board in 1932) thought the total maximum of 15 per cent of the gross deposits would be adequate."

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta) What is the book the Honourable Member is reading?

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: It is "Commercial Banking Legislation and Control by Mr. Allen and several others", a copy of which I believe is in the Library.

While, I concede, that it might be rather an undue extension from 80 to 15 per cent or further smaller from 25 to 15 per cent this is a matter to which the attention of the interests concerned should be focussed. And if the Government of India or its advisers feel that they cannot reasonably enlarge the scope of this particular clause, there must be some complementary legislation enlarging the scope of section 17 (2) of the Reserve Bank Act which will enable the smaller banks in my province to avoid suffering unduly because of the restrictions imposed by clause 18.

In regard to the question of controls, I must say that I am disappointed with this Bill. I think the genesis of this disinclination to exercise control where it was necessary and to refrain from exercising that measure of control which is all to the good arises from the report submitted by the late Sir James Taylor in 1939 as a preface to his draft Bill. In paragraph 87 he has discussed the possibility of the appointment of an officer analogous to the post now held

by the Superintendent of Insurance. He has also discussed therein the possibility of the Reserve Bank being clothed with powers of inspection more rigid than those contemplated in this Bill. He says.

"At the same time, as we have said, we are doubtful whether such an appointment will be necessary or desirable at the present stage. Our object is to make a practical beginning on lines which will be as safe and automatic as possible and will not give much scope for evasion. Later on as banking develops such a department may become necessary."

War and other things that have happened in this country have made the necessity for Government control which would have been necessary after a period of 25 years of peace time, necessary after a period of 4 years. I would like to tell the Honourable the Finance Member that the situation which Sir James Taylor visualised might arise has already come and there is no need for us to be faced or for the successor of this Legislature to be faced with the task of further amending Bill later on. Let us have a comprehensive suggestion or proposal for control, let us have a Department established under the Reserve Bank for this purpose so that there should not be a question of division of functions between the Reserve Bank and the Central Government, the Central Government authorising the Reserve Bank to do one thing and the Reserve Bank doing something else by itself, and yet both of them not doing something which is very necessary. Let us straightaway act on the experience that this Government has gained in the Insurance field and put into operation a measure of control in the field of banking where it is far more necessary not only in the interests of the depositors but also in the interests of future economic position of this country.

Sir, I would like the Honourable Member, when he brings back the Bill to us, perhaps to refer it to a Select Committee to place concrete proposals before us about the establishment of a special branch of the Reserve Bank, which will be alive, not act merely as a policeman but which will keep in touch with the pulse of the money-market in this country, which will come to the aid of such institutions as and when they deserve help and which will try to lighten the rigours of the law enacted where it is very necessary in the best interests of the country. Such agency as is appointed should exercise rigid supervision and I do not think it is worth while giving any discretion in this matter, because once discretion is given either to the Central Government or to the Reserve Bank or to any other agency the position will be that where the Central Bank or the Reserve Bank exercise its discretion, it will mean in the eyes of the public that the bank concerned is not in a solvent state. Inspection and control must be automatic and perennial and no difference should be made in this matter between the one bank and the other. It is only then that rumours won't be started that the Inspector of the Reserve Bank has come down to inspect the accounts of a particular bank because the Central Government has authorised him to do so and there was something wrong with the affairs of the bank concerned. The very idea of empowering either the Government or the Reserve Bank with discretion in this matter is dangerous in the interests of the stability and well-being of banks. There must be one uniform method of inspection and, however rigid it may be, I do not think it is likely to affect materially the working of a bank. A few more returns might probably require a few more clerks, and I wish it were possible under this Bill to impress on banks the need to pay its clerks well.

Sir, I come now practically to the end of what I have to say. I shall only draw the attention of my Honourable friend to one aspect of this Bill to which greater attention should be given. Section 89 envisages an amendment of the Reserve Bank Act. It envisages the amendment of section 17 and the addition of sub-section 15(a) thereto, which will lay an obligation on the Reserve Bank to see that the Banking Companies Act is properly worked. As somebody mentioned before me—perhaps it was Mr. Avinashlingam Chettiar or you yourself, Sir, when you were speaking, if you impose obligations on banks, as such by this Bill you must give them some concessions. I do not mean to indicate a concession that is to be granted in any *ex-gratia* spirit but that

[Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari.]

a definite obligation must rest on the Reserve Bank to go to the help of joint stock banks in time of need. In 1938 I was in close touch with the banks in my province which were undergoing severe strain merely because one of the banks had crashed. The late Sir James Taylor was in Madras and we met him several times. We had several discussions with him on how best the Reserve Bank could help. Notwithstanding the fact that he and his advisers wanted to help the banks which needed help, they were not in a position to do so because of the rigidity of the provisions of section 17(2), the framers of which envisaged an ideal condition which has not yet come into being in this country. The bill habit is not there and therefore little advantage could be taken of the provisions of section 17(2). All that the Reserve Bank could do was to ask the commercial banks to go to the Imperial Bank and ask for their aid. How could they go to the Imperial Bank and ask for an advance on the securities that they held or on the bills that they held because, if once they divulged their secrets to the Imperial Bank, which happens to be a very serious competitor of theirs, their business would be lost. And, in fact, what happened in the sequel was that such banks as had to go to the Imperial Bank did lose some of their business ultimately.

Sir, if my Honourable friend could envisage an amendment of section 17 for one purpose, I want him at the same time to liberalise the wording of section 17(2) which will help the Reserve Bank to go to the assistance of its member banks in times of need.

Lastly, I would like to urge a word of caution. We in South India are proud of having made a certain amount of progress in the matter of Joint Stock Banking especially in the field of the smaller banks which are now performing a very useful function. By virtue of the situation in which they are placed the management of the smaller bank know their locality very well and their people as well, so as to be able to exercise a certain amount of judgment in the matter of helping these people who needed the help. They are, in times of scarcity of money, not in times of inflation such as the present, performing a very useful function in increasing the velocity of the currency. Anything that is done to the detriment of those institutions, I shall protest against vehemently. If in order to have a symmetrical Bill which looks compact and beautiful, which has no loopholes, where no caution need be exercised by the supervising authority, you produce an Act which will kill these banks or for that matter even stifle them, I shall protest against the measure. After all, if my Honourable friend wants to place on the Statute book an Act which would help—I would say again—the economic progress of this country let alone the police duties of the State, then the small banks will form, for a very long time to come, an integral portion of that particular economy which you seek to foster. I see with apprehension the growth of the big banks, which taking advantage of the present cheap money conditions, want to exploit the country for the benefit of the promoters. Big businessmen have tried to float big institutions. If they could, in course of time, displace foreign institutions like the Imperial Bank of India, well and good. But if they are going to follow the same policy as of all big institutions all over the world and stifle the smaller institutions, then I must ask the Government to take steps to protect these smaller institutions which are very necessary for the economy of the country at any rate until such time as you or your successors, whether now or fifty years hence, will take charge on behalf of the state of the entire credit mechanism of the whole country, if that condition should ever come into being.

In the meantime, I suggest that the Government of India should ask the Reserve Bank not merely to send a copy of this Bill to every banking institution, but also to send an important officer of the bank round to the places where these banks function and ask him to listen to the difficulties that these banks might feel in regard to the proposed provisions, to the suggestions regarding suitable amendments to the Act to remove those difficulties and the

form of aid which these banks expect from the Government or its agents, so that some of these suggestions if they are found reasonable might be incorporated in the provisions of the Bill before it becomes law. I hope, Sir, that the Honourable the Finance Member will be in a position to give me that assurance.

Finally let me congratulate him on having brought forward this measure and I should like to ask him to tell us when he proposes to ask this House to take the Bill into consideration or ask the House to refer it to the Select Committee. The motion as it stands now does not indicate what will be the last date by which opinions will be received.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani (Tirhut Division, Muhammadan) I have got only a few remarks to offer. Safeguards have been provided in clause 10 of the Bill against disproportionate remuneration, commission or share of profits of the banking company. But all these safeguards are relaxed by the second proviso to this clause. In the first instance, the period of managing agency is fixed for five years at a time. By the second proviso it is laid down that the contract for managing agency may be renewed or extended for a further period not exceeding five years at a time, if and so often as the directors think fit. So, virtually there is no time limit up to which the term can be extended, five years at a time. The directors can extend the term for as many five year periods as they think fit. I think some limit should be placed. I suggest that in the first term, it may be five years, the second term should be only three years in the interest of the depositors and other persons interested in the bank. There may not be more than one extension, i.e., eight years should be maximum period of the managing agency.

Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetty (Madras; Indian Commerce). Sir, I welcome the Banking Bill that has been placed before the House. I also remember when I served on the Select Committee of the Indian Companies Act, how even such a resourceful Law Member as Sir Nripendra Sircar found it rather difficult to bring in a proper definition of banking which would not injure or affect one or the other of the prevailing customs or interests in banking in this country. That after eight years, since that happened, the Honourable the Finance Member has brought forward this Bill is no doubt a matter for congratulation. As has been very pertinently observed by my Honourable friend Mr. Krishnamachari, the provisions of this Bill are in the nature of mere policing administration rather than real effectuation of the objective, namely the successful financing of commerce and trade in the country. I do not think any banking legislation would be satisfactory, if merely you impose certain conditions either with regard to its paid up capital or preparation of balance sheets or employment of managing agents or even having in possession of fluid capital a certain percentage to meet urgent requirements. What the country requires is full credit facilities for the speedy exchange of commodities, for being able to store agricultural or industrial products up to a point, when it would be best to dispose of them in the markets and to see that no easy exchange of trade transactions is impeded by heavy rates of interest. I put it to the Honourable the Finance Member whether any of these conditions are satisfied or at any rate taken up for satisfaction or for meeting them in this Bill, I am afraid, not.

There are four important essential requirements of this country in the matter of banking. - Industrial transactions, agricultural transactions, small borrowings and commercial transactions. Most of the banks which are in existence now, are engaged purely in commercial transactions. In fact, other kinds of transactions are viewed with a good deal of doubt and suspicion. In fact, true, some banks do lend monies upon agricultural products when they are stored in the bank's godowns. These are indeed very few and even these banks feel that their monies are practically locked up in transactions of that nature. If, today, you have to be satisfied only with this legislation I do not think you are doing any service to the country and to the conditions of

[Mr. Sami Vencatachettam Chetty.]

cheap credit in respect of any of these transactions. I do not know what prevented the Honourable the Finance Member from taking this opportunity to liberalise the provisions and even to enlarge the scope of this legislation in order that there may be four categories of banks, one, for industrial products and undertakings, second, for agricultural commodities, third, for commercial transactions, and fourth, for small borrowings. It is in respect of these small borrowers that the little joint stock banks, of which we have rather quite a considerable number in our presidency, serve them indeed very usefully. The provisions of your Bill practically discourage such banks from functioning. I think the lacuna in these matters must be attended to, otherwise a mere police Act like this, as in the case of the insurance companies, would not be of much use. In fact the definition of the word 'bank' which excluded transactions of small or private investors with business concerns gave them a great disadvantage. That disadvantage was overcome by inclusion of the phrase "by cheque" in the previous definition which was under discussion. That is now removed in this definition which practically, therefore, excludes private investors from putting their money in any commercial or industrial concerns and demanding payment at the proper time. This will undoubtedly affect many commercial concerns, not to speak of many industrial concerns as well. I realise, Sir, that at the present stage it is more the lawyers who have to look into the actual wordings of these clauses than business men; but I make these suggestions in order to know what difficulties there are for Government to enlarge the scope of the Bill so as to include provisions which would make credit easily obtainable on no doubt good security.

Then with regard to these police or punitive provisions I am afraid the experience of recent banking crises has not made the Finance Member bring the law in common with the States, in regard to liquidation or payment of dividends of these banking concerns when an unfortunate liquidation has to take place. The Honourable Finance Member pretty well knows that with regard to a particular bank, the crash of which was very unfortunate and affected constituents all over the country, the matter of division of the amounts available became a controversial point between the courts in British India and the courts of the Indian States. I do not see any provision in this Bill which would obviate that kind of difficulty.

I wish to make or hazard one more suggestion. I consider that insurance and banking are the two things that can be nationalised or socialised at the earliest possible moment. It may look rather a wild suggestion at present but I think we must explore the possibilities of such a thing as that. After all it is upon Government credit that all the banking institutions ply their trade; and I do not see why the State cannot run a nationalised credit system all over the country. But it is no doubt a fantastic hope when the Government of India, even after constituting the Reserve Bank, should still be paying to the tune of 56 lakhs of rupees a year to a private concern as agency commission. To a Government of that sort it is no doubt a fantastic suggestion that I make. Still I content myself with making it in the hope that in time to come it may mature.

Sir, I support the motion for circulation of this Bill.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman (Patna and Chota Nagpur *cum* Orissa: Muhammadan). Mr. Deputy President, Sir, I rise to support the motion for circulation and I am glad that the Finance Member has thought it necessary at this stage to bring in a Bill which was rather overdue. We find that the banking institutions are now rapidly growing in India and people are becoming bank-minded and looking to this side of business with more confidence. I do not propose to deal with the clauses in detail because after circulation we will know the feelings of the people and the views of financiers and their reactions to the different clauses. My Honourable friend Mr. Krishnamachari has made certain comments on which I will touch briefly because I do not agree with all that he said. Before I say anything on that, I find a significant omission of any

clause which would encourage the growth of indigenous banking in this country and, in particular, the support that this Government would themselves offer or give through the Reserve Bank. I could not get any book in the Library as regards the efforts of the Australian Government when they gave pecuniary help through subsidies towards the growth of banking institutions in that country although I know that the Australians did give special treatment to banking and insurance organisations. It is also the duty of Government to give an impetus to that particular branch which would benefit this country in developing trade and industry.

I will now deal with one or two clauses and I will first take up clause 10. I certainly welcome that they should do away with the idea of managing agents for banking corporations and banking institutions. I suggest that those banking institutions which have got agreements of managing agencies at present should terminate the agreements within a reasonable period say, of two years on commencement of this Act. My personal view is that all these banking institutions should be managed and their policy governed by a board of directors and nobody else. Certainly the directors should be those who have the highest number of shares and largest interest in that particular banking institution. The duration of term should also be settled, it should be laid down whether it should be 3, 4 or 5 years. It is immaterial at the moment what period is suggested.

With regard to clause 11, I do not appreciate the value, like my Honourable friend, Mr. Krishnamachari, who agrees with me on this. What is the idea of requiring certain banking institutions to provide a certain amount of capital for their branches in relation to the population of the areas in which they will operate? In this country, it may be that a bank in a certain area with a population of one lakh may have twenty times more business activity than a branch office in another area with the same population. Probably the Honourable the Finance Member will agree with me when I say that the financial position of different areas in this country—as probably in other countries as well—differs so much that it will be unadvisable to put those institutions in a strait-jacket, as my Honourable friend Mr. Krishnamachari has said. I think that this particular clause requires a very careful alteration. It is also a matter of opinion as to whether any such clause is at all necessary under the conditions that prevail in this country.

Now, I come to clause 14, which says:—

"Every banking company not being a scheduled bank shall maintain by way of cash reserve in cash a sum equivalent to at least one and half per cent. of its time liabilities and five per cent. of its demand liabilities and shall file with the Reserve Bank before the tenth day of every month . . ."

I could not understand what exactly is the purpose behind this provision unless it be, as the last speaker has said, that it is meant to stifle the small indigenous banking institutions which exist today. I have no desire to make any comments for or against, but at the same time I certainly support the view that no attempt should be made to stifle the reasonably good banking institutions. Of course a certain capital may be compulsory but at the same time in the case of those smaller institutions which have a good record of business and against whom nothing can be said, restrictions should not be placed and they should not be stifled. As my Honourable friend Mr. Krishnamachari has said, these small institutions are very helpful to small people—agriculturists especially—for short term advances.

Then, Sir, I wholeheartedly support clause 17, but at the same time I would suggest that there should be a clause providing that those countries which would not allow Indian banking institutions to operate in their country should not be permitted to have their banking institutions in this country. We know that institutions like Mitsui Bussan Kaisha were carrying on big banking business in this country—exchange business and so on—but at the same time Japan did not permit an Indian bank to operate in Japan or even to have a branch agency for the matter of that. Therefore, I say, Sir, that a

[Mr. Muhammad Nauman]
 clause should be incorporated in the Bill which would restrict opening of banking institutions in India to British Indian subject, States and the dominions and such other countries which would give us reciprocal facilities to have Indian exchange banks in their countries if Indians so desired. I am not here to enumerate the difficulties which our businessmen had to face when they wanted to establish any such institution in foreign countries.—I am sure, the Honourable the Finance Member knows fully well of these things and I urge that at this stage, when we are enacting a Banking Bill, it would be proper to make a statutory provision that only such countries should be permitted to operate their banking institutions in India which in their turn would permit Indians to have banking institutions in their countries.

I do not propose to discuss things like accounts and balance sheets, but I would just touch upon one point which was brought forward by Mr. Krishnamachari—namely agency of the Reserve Bank to Imperial Bank of India. At present the Imperial Bank are sole agents of the Reserve Bank out of which they receive fifty-six lakhs rupees per year. As soon as the present agreement is finished, I think that an opportunity should be given to other banking institutions also to become the agents of the Reserve Bank; the Imperial Bank should not hold a monopoly as it has been the practice so far. There are many Indian banks of good standing and I am sure the Reserve Bank can safely rely on those without running any risk. I cannot understand why the Reserve Bank should choose the Imperial Bank alone to be their agents and no others. Perhaps it was all right in the earlier stages, but now, as I have said, when Indian banking institutions with sufficient resources and big capitals have come into existence, it is time that a share should be given to Indian banks on more liberal lines in the same manner as it has been given to the Imperial Bank of India. This can be done by putting a clause in the Bill. That is the only comment which I can make at this stage of the Bill. It will be rather too much for anybody to try and discuss all the clauses because we do not actually know how this Bill is to be received in the country and what opinions we are going to receive.

With these few words, Sir, I support the circulation of the Bill.

Mr. T. Chapman-Mortimer (Bengal, European): Mr Deputy President, I rise to support the motion for circulation of this very important Bill. There are, as everyone in this House is aware, very good reasons why this Bill should have been introduced at a time like this. During the last 20 years and especially during the last four or five years, there has been a very large increase in the habit of deposit banking and in branch banking throughout India, and, as various Members have explained, there have been serious cases of banking failures, and obviously these have brought a spotlight to bear on the whole system. It is clearly of the first importance that there should be sound banking in any country that hopes to develop its industrial and trading system, as we hope India is going to develop her trade and industry during the next few decades. But to make sound banking you need two things. First of all, sound law—commercial law generally and banking law in particular secondly you need good bankers.

Well, Sir, good or otherwise as it may be banking law obviously is not in itself going to make good bankers, but it may, and we hope that it will, go some way to ensure good banking if good banking law is established in this country.

There is just one point of detail to which I should like to refer and that is in clause 20. As I understand clause 20, it is proposed that every banking company should make a certain class of return to the Reserve Bank. I presume that what Government have in mind is that the return to be made should be somewhat on the lines now in force in the United Kingdom, where banks such as Lloyds Bank make a monthly return, which they also incidentally display in all their branches and at their head office. The point of my enquiry is this. Is it the intention of Government that the return to be made monthly

should also be displayed at the head office and at the branches of the banks, because there is no doubt whatever that one of the prime causes for the success of sound banking in the United Kingdom has been this very factor of good publicity. By that I do not mean the kind of advertisements we see everyday in the papers—here where banks advertise their huge capital and their enormous—as they call it—Working Capital in the case of a bank whose inherent position we know to be unsound. By good publicity I mean just this: that the depositors and all who deal with the banks should know where they stand. One of the main recommendations of the MacMillan Committee which reported in 1931 was that every banking company should make a monthly return such as is presumably contemplated here and that the return should be adequately displayed at their head office and at all their branch offices. That would then enable the public to know where exactly they stood. They would know where the assets of the banks were; what its liabilities were, and really they would be able to tell at a glance the degree of liquidity of its resources. That, Sir, to my mind is a very important feature if you are going to have set up a sound banking system and I should like to hear what the Honourable the Finance Member has to say on that in his reply.

With regard to the other clauses of the Bill, I do not propose to comment at this stage. They are mostly technical and I am afraid I have not had the time to study them all. But no doubt we shall all have ample time to do that at a later stage when the Bill is referred to Select Committee.

Sir, I support the motion.

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Guntur *cum* Nellore, Non-Muhammadan Rural): I am sorry to find that this Government does not try to grow wiser from day to day. On the other hand it grows more and more stupid and for this reason

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed (Leader of the House): You would make excellent company with the Leader of the House!

Prof. N. G. Ranga: I would certainly be excellent company with the Leader of the House. Bihar and Andhra are both emotional and therefore they would be a match for each other!

The other day I told the Commerce Member of the need for the Government to go into the question of the advisability of nationalising such big industries as insurance and banking and in spite of it my Honourable friend, Sir Jeremy Raisman, comes here to day quietly introducing this Bill and making his speech, without adding even a word as to what Government is going to do in regard to the future of this great business of banking. This Government has been talking quite a lot about its planning department and post-war reconstruction. The cat is out of the bag today. Here are two big businesses in this country and in regard to them Government comes here and remains mum as to their plan and policy for the future. It becomes clear that this Government's idea of post-war planning is either not honest or is purely bogus. If the Government say that they are not aware of the views as well as the intentions of the public in this country, then I can only charge it of culpable ignorance, because again and again the National Planning Committee had made it clear at its successive sessions that it was in favour of socialising these two great industries. The Indian National Congress also has reiterated through its Karachi Charter of Fundamental Rights and through its election manifesto which was published to the masses from one end to the other of the country that it is in favour of the socialisation of these great big businesses. Government cannot also plead that this is not a business proposition. I made it clear the other day that my idea of socialising insurance is a really sound business proposition and today my Honourable friend, one of the most experienced businessmen in this country, Mr. S. Venkateshram Chetty himself comes forward and hazards a suggestion to the Finance Member that this big business of banking ought also to be socialised. But what are the plans of the Government? Yes, I could understand my Honourable friend Sir Azizul Haque when he said that surely it is not this Government's business to make plans and propose socialisation of such industries. But I cannot agree with him. It

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is still possible for this Government to prepare plans for the socialisation of these industries. The decision may be left to the future Governments whether their plans are to be accepted or not. But plans there must be and if they do not want to plan at all, let them scrap this new Department of Planning and let them send my Honourable friend, Sir Ardeshr Dalal, to his more remunerative and useful job. Instead of what they want to play with the imagination, the feelings and ideals of the people of this country by saying they are having a plan and bringing a very busy businessman and asking him to waste his time here and deceiving the public with the impression that the Government is busy doing something very big and very useful. I protest against this sort of game, if not a sham. Sir, banking is a much more important business than insurance. It is true that insurance yields large incomes every year which can be made available for investment. But banking is much more. It is the one business which caters to the needs of the commercially minded people and industrially minded people and agriculturists in the country.

But my Honourable friend, Mr Chapman-Mortimer, comes and says that sound banking can be ensured only in two ways, one by sound law and the other by good banking. What he meant by sound banking can be understood from what my Honourable friend, Sir Jeremy Raisman, has said this morning. It is to look after the deposits of the depositors. Is that all? Is not the more important function of banking to look to the development of industry and commerce of the country? Sir, my Honourable friend seems to be still labouring under the impression that he has formed when long, long ago, he was in his University, when *laissez-faire* was the governing theory of the West. Deposit banking was the general governing policy of British banking but British banking practice has changed in the last fourteen years, that is ever since the last economic depression. In England those orthodox bankers have come to heed the advice of people like McKenna and others and they have come to realise that their function is also to try to finance and promote British industry as well as British commerce. My Honourable friend comes here and says "There is great danger, grave danger, in Indian banks indulging in trade or interesting themselves in trading." Why does he not then point out what is happening and what is being done in England? There in recent years they have begun to form a number of corporations with hundreds of millions of pounds as their capital that has been supplied by these banks themselves, whose interest is to safeguard the interests of British exporters over the vicissitudes or fluctuations of exchange. It is called Exchange Equalisation Fund and so on.

Then there is the question of industrial development of England. The English manufacturers themselves have come to be thoroughly dissatisfied with the old orthodox policy of their banks and banking. Therefore they have formed what is known as the Federation of British Industries. They have begun to agitate and with so much success that today the British Government as well as the Bank of England have come forward to encourage the 8 or 9 principal banks of England to come into the industrial field, to come into the commercial field and offer long term credits for these commercial and industrial concerns. That is what is happening in England.

But my Honourable friend, who has come from England is trying to forget or to ignore what is happening in England and wants us to go to the England of 1910 or 1900 and restrict ourselves to the simple deposit banking. He would be satisfied I suppose with a sort of police government. We have had so much of policing in every other field in this country that naturally he wants the same kind of police government in this matter also. But I am afraid this policing is going to work just as disastrously in this as it has worked in other fields. He is going to prevent the emergence of an ever-increasing number of small banks in various rural and semi-rural areas in this country by stipulating that greater funds must be held by these banks and that a greater proportion of their deposits must be placed as security with the Reserve Bank of India and

so on. The crying need of this country is for more and more banks, for more and more banking facilities. For a very long time it was the Imperial Bank of India which held the field and which thwarted the growth and development of our industries and commerce. After great trouble the public were able to force the Government of India to realise the necessity of helping of some other banks also. And now the Imperial Bank has been pledged to open some rural branches also and some Indian banks have come in. Mr Chapman-Mortimer is rather unhappy because during recent years very many more banks have come into existence and he is afraid that there must be something wrong in the State of Denmark. What is wrong with these banks? What are the facts at his disposal and at the disposal of the Honourable Member in charge of this Bill which justify his proposal that the smaller banks shall be kept down by all these onerous conditions that he is stipulating? He has not provided us with any statistics. Supposing there is something wrong with these smaller banks what is he to do? Should he not come forward with his own offer of assistance to these banks?

There was a proposal made by the Industrial Commission, appointed during the last war, also as a sort of sop to the nationalists of those days, to the effect that there must be industrial banking in this country and that the State should come forward to encourage Provincial Governments to form Provincial Investment Boards in the various Provinces and place certain funds at the disposal of these boards and also encourage the various banks to place some of their funds at the disposal of the investment boards. And they expected these investment boards to offer credit to the various industrial concerns on condition that those industrial concerns would accept two or three directors nominated by this Industrial Board. What have the Government of India done in regard to this recommendation? Why is it that the Government of India have not done anything to develop industrial banking in this country? Is it because industrial banking was very well developed in Germany and the present Government is so much opposed to Germany? Long before 1940, when this Government was flirting with Nazism and Fascism, it was open to the Government to have come forward with the necessary legislation in order to develop industrial banking in this country. Is it not a fact that our industries are crying for more and more capital? Is it not a fact that their needs have not been properly attended to by the Imperial Bank or other banks that have been there in this country? What have the Government done? What do the Government propose to do even now? It does not want to do anything except this. Even these banks which are trying to lend some money to some of these industries on a long term basis should be controlled. They must be kept down, otherwise industries may spring up anywhere and everywhere with plenty of funds at their disposal.

The time at which this Bill is being introduced is very significant. This is just the time when the Government is trying to prevent the development of more and more industrial concerns as well as joint stock companies in this country. There was a time when economists used to cry aloud that Indians would not take to industry, Indians would not take to business, Indians would not deposit their money in these banks and other concerns. But now the Government comes forward and says "Banks and industrial concerns are coming up like mushrooms, and everywhere joint stock companies are being floated. Therefore we come down with our heavy hand and prevent the floating of these new companies and also prevent the flourishing and the prosperity of these banks". If that is the game of the Government I am here to tell them that this country anyhow will not have anything to do with that sort of game.

Why is it that the Government is so much opposed to the idea of developing commercial banking? They say that they can have deposits, they can lend money on the ~~fundier~~ ^{fundier} and securities, they can under-write a number of companies, they can also help some of these industrial concerns but they should not do business. Does not the Imperial Bank of India lend huge sums to companies like ~~Volkart Bros.~~ ^{Volkart Bros.}, Gordon Woodroffe & Co., and so many other

[Prof N. G. Ranga.]
companies managed and controlled by Europeans, huge sums not covered by the assets of these companies nor the deposits held by them in the Imperial Bank. There were many occasions when this Government itself used to come to the rescue of the Imperial Bank of India. When that was the case, why is it today the Government has suddenly grown wiser just when Indian banks have begun to take interest in Indian trade, business and industries?

Sir, it is the responsibility of the Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman to dispel these doubts. It is quite possible that many of these doubts are not well-founded. How can we be sure, when we know that this Government has not been interested at all in the development of the industry and commerce of this country? Even in England, experienced bankers and financiers have come to the conclusion that English banking practices have to be changed and English banks should be encouraged and even prodded to take more and more interest in industry. Therefore, they want them to pursue the policy of the industrial banks. Will the Government be prepared to consider this view of the British financiers? These are some of the questions which I pose here to the Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman in the hope that he may try, at this late hour even, to address himself to these questions and the problems that underlie these questions and try to give an idea or an inkling of the mind of this Government. Sir, I support this motion for circulation in the hope that on these points also in the light of what the Honourable Member is going to say, the public may have an opportunity of expressing their views and making itself felt on this wooden Government.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Sir, until the last speaker addressed the House, I thought that I should be able to express my gratification that every speaker had not only supported the motion but also as far as I could see had supported the principle of the Bill. As regards the Honourable Member who spoke last, I experienced the same difficulty as he did himself in determining whether he was supporting or opposing the principle of the Bill.

A number of observations have been made both of a general character and on particular clauses. I do not intend to traverse those observations. I would rather take time to study them before this Bill comes to the House again. The general feeling was that the Bill contained many desirable features, but there were Honourable Members who thought that in some respects it did not go far enough and in others it went too far. I am not surprised at that. Any measure which attempts to safeguard the interests of the general public and at the same time to encourage the growth of sound institutions is bound to have a restrictive aspect, and if you are to look at it from the point of view of preserving the maximum freedom to the individual who may wish to embark on this form of activity, then clearly you will find reasons to criticise the measure. My Honourable friend, Mr. Krishnamachari, for instance, seemed to me to be trying to make the best of two worlds, which were by no means identical. On the one hand he said a good deal which was in favour of the Bill and of the provisions of the Bill, and he expressed his strong inclination to support more drastic measures of control. I was very glad to hear that he was so confident about the way to tackle this problem, but he finished up before he sat down by saying that anything which militated in any degree against certain small banks which existed in the part of the world in which he is most interested would have his uncompromising opposition or at any rate that he would protest strenuously against it. I find myself in the familiar position of having to make an omelette without breaking any eggs whatever

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: I am unable really to understand how that is a position which cannot be got over. I think we can have controls and at the same time allow a certain amount of flexibility in the restrictions that you impose. I do not want to interrupt the Honourable Member; but if the Honourable Member would like me to say how, I shall gladly tell him.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Theoretically it is always possible to say that what is wanted is control, more drastic control, more complete

control, and also to say that it should be accompanied by infinite flexibility, so that nothing is really done to anybody who is controlled. But in practice, unfortunately, when it comes to legislation and you have to put those ideas into rather clumsy words, when it comes to legislation, you have to make up your mind whether you are really going to do, not merely say, something—you have got to make up your mind whether you actually intend something new being done and how much freedom you will allow to the smaller banks to follow practices which may be detrimental to the interests of the depositors and to the growth of sound banking principles. But I do not wish at this stage to commit myself in any way about either this or any other of the points raised. I was merely indicating the general difficulty which is bound to face an attempt to draft a banking measure for the regulation of banking.

There are obviously the two interests—there are the interests of the depositors, and on the other hand there are the interests of the bankers and there are the interests of those who borrow from the banks rather than lend to or deposit with the banks. I was not surprised that my Honourable friend, Prof. Ranga, took a refreshing line on this measure and harked back to some very fundamental first principles—but I ask him in all seriousness whether he expected me at this time to bring forward a measure for the complete nationalisation of banks in India . . .

Prof. N. G. Ranga: No, to tell us whether you are planning at all for the future.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Ralsman: I am not even prepared to take this occasion to do that. I understood that in matters as fundamental as that the attitude of my Honourable friend and of his party was that this Government should do nothing of the kind—that it certainly should not breach the integrity of any of the fundamental principles by undertaking plans which would tie the hands of any successive Government.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Then abolish the planning department!

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Ralsman: There are certain things which can be usefully done by the present Government by way of planning; but I do not think that a plan for the complete socialisation of insurance and banking would be regarded as one of those innocuous preliminary steps which any succeeding Government would be quite happy to inherit . . .

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: They won't make any change once you do it.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Ralsman: As far as I personally am concerned, that might seem quite an attractive proposition; but at the moment we are talking about the attitude of Government and what is possible in relation to the present situation. It will be quite open to my Honourable friend at some later stage to introduce a measure far more sweeping than this and I shall wish him good luck when he does so but my own object at the moment is much more limited. As I freely admitted in my speech, I did not intend to be too ambitious. My object was to deal with some of the more clamant needs of the immediate situation and to attempt to secure a measure which will safeguard the depositor against certain grave perils and which will safeguard Indian banking against certain unsoundnesses which undoubtedly are liable to develop. I think we shall find when we next come to consider this measure that even a Bill as modest as this one, has evoked a very considerable diversity of opinions and I will not attempt to anticipate that.

In regard to queries as to the time by which the opinions would be elicited, the intention of the Government is, if possible, to move for the reference of this Bill to a Select Committee in the course of the next session and I hope that by that time we shall have the opinions of the general public before the House.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): The question is:

"That the Bill to consolidate and amend the law relating to banking companies be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon."

The motion was adopted.

RESOLUTION RE CONSTITUTION OF THE PERMANENT FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS.

Mr. J. D. Tyson (Secretary, Department of Education, Health and Lands).
Sir, I move:

"That this Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council to accept the Constitution of the permanent Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations."

The brief and businesslike document which the House is going to discuss today—the Constitution of the proposed Food and Agriculture Organization—has a history and I believe Honourable Members will wish to be reminded of the course of events which led to its being drafted, as it cannot properly be considered apart from its background. On the 18th May last year, 1948, on the invitation of the Government of the United States of America, delegations from 44 Governments met in plenary session at Hot Springs, Virginia, for the opening of the United Nations Conference on Food and Agriculture.

[At this stage, Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) resumed the Chair.]

It was, I believe, the first conference attended by delegations from all the United Nations and its task was to consider food and agriculture as world problems with a view to ensuring that, when peace is restored, the goal of freedom from want, more especially from want of food suitable and adequate for the health of all the peoples of the world, can be pursued and in time achieved. I should like to emphasize, Sir, that the problem before the Conference was not the organisation of war-time relief or immediately post-war relief. That is the function of another organisation altogether. Its function was to devise steps for a concerted effort, on a permanent basis, for a national and an international attack on hunger and malnutrition.

The Conference was intended to be exploratory and the invitation indicated that representation should be by a small number of technical and expert representatives. From India, we sent the Vice-Chairman of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research, Sir Pherozé Kharegat, and the Director of the Nutrition Research Laboratories of the Indian Research Fund Association, Dr Aykroyd. In America, they were joined by the Agent General for India, Sir Gurja Shankar Bajpai, who is no stranger to this House, and who was invited to lead the Government of India delegation, and by the Indian Trade Commissioner in America, Mr H S Malik. It so happened that Sir David Meek, the Indian Trade Commissioner in London, was in the United States on other Government business at the time and the opportunity was taken to secure his services also for the Indian delegation, which thus consisted of five persons,—none too many, as it proved, for service on the various committees into which the Conference at once resolved itself. I think all our delegates were on more than one committee and the Leader of our delegation was Vice-Chairman of one of the four main sections into which the Conference divided itself—Section II, which dealt with the expansion of production and adaptation to consumption needs. He was also a member of the small but important "Steering Committee" of 11 Leaders of delegation, which was set up by the Executive Committee of the Conference. Dr Aykroyd was the "rapporteur" of Section I of the Conference—on Consumption levels and requirements.

The Conference lasted from the 18th May to the 3rd June when in a last plenary session it unanimously adopted what has been termed the Final Act of the Conference—a document embodying in the form of a declaration and a series of recommendations the conclusions at which the Conference had arrived,—I would repeat, with unanimity. As I have said, the Conference was exploratory; there is nothing binding in its conclusions but the unanimous conclusions of a Conference, attended by the representatives of 44 Governments, on a matter vitally affecting the future of the human race are not lightly to be disregarded.

I will not stop to examine in detail the recommendations made in this Final Act. I hope Honourable Members have had time to read them. They form the third section of the pamphlet that has been circulated. In effect, they cover

the whole field of Food and Agricultural policy. Improvement of nutrition and of standards of living are put in the forefront and it is recognised that these can be achieved only by well co-ordinated measures, covering such matters as land improvement, agricultural credit, co-operative movements of various kinds, revision of land tenures, improved arrangements for marketing. An economy of abundance is accepted as the aim and a world-wide industrial and agricultural expansion—with special attention to backward areas—as the means. Success, they felt, could only be achieved as a result of organised international collaboration. To educate, to advise and to persuade, with these ends in view, a permanent international organisation was essential. These are the main recommendations, as I see them, of the Final Act. Sir, as I said, they are not in themselves binding on any one but they form the basis and the background of the constitution which it is our duty to examine today. I would only refer in detail to the first recommendation of the Conference, as it explains the next step that was taken. On page 44 of the pamphlet, the second Resolution recommends

"First, that the Governments and authorities here represented recognise and embody in a formal declaration or agreement the obligation to their respective peoples and to one another henceforth to collaborate in raising levels of nutrition and standards of living of their peoples and to report to one another on the progress achieved,

Secondly, that the Governments and authorities here represented establish a permanent Organisation in the field of food and agriculture."

That was their recommendation.

Now, for the drafting of this formal declaration and for devising a scheme for a permanent organisation, the Conference resolved to continue itself in the form of an Interim Commission composed of one representative of each of the Governments represented at the Conference. They were to meet and take up their work not later than within six weeks, the 15th July, in Washington. Accordingly the Interim Commission met for the first time in the middle of July 1948. The Government of India's representative was the Agent-General, Sir Gurja Shankar Bajpai, and it is, I think, a tribute to the part our Delegation had played at the Conference and to the position he himself has won at Washington that he was chosen to be Chairman of one of the four Committees in which the Interim Commission decided to work. The particular interest of that selection to us here today is that it was on this particular Committee—Committee B—of the Interim Commission that the task was laid of drafting a constitution for the permanent organisation. Assisted by two panels of experts—one scientific and the other economic,—Committee B duly produced the draft Constitution which, after close scrutiny and long deliberations, the Interim Commission has unanimously adopted in the form in which we now have it. It is recommended to us by 45 Governments of the United Nations for acceptance and, again I would repeat, it has the sanction of unanimous recommendation.

I come now to the document itself which is printed on page 25 of the pamphlet circulated to Honourable Members. It consists, as the House will

Constitution. I hope Honourable Members have had time to read them both, or rather to read the one in the light of the other,—the Constitution in the light of the Report. I would first invite attention to Article XXI of the Constitution, on page 28, especially to clauses 1 and 3. "This Constitution shall be open to acceptance by the nations specified in Annex I." (The nations specified in Annex I are the 45 United Nations I should explain that originally there were 44 nations. A representative of Denmark was invited to attend the Conference at Hot Springs and he attended. I think, in his personal capacity, but, I suppose, since then his attendance has been ratified by his Government. At any rate, I find Denmark in the list of United Nations, and that is why the number has now gone up to 45).

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum (North-West Frontier Provinces: General). Was Italy invited?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: No, Sir. At that time (July 1948) Italy was on the "wrong side of the line". Clause 8 of that Article says:

"Upon the receipt by the Interim Commission of 20 notifications of acceptance, the Interim Commission shall arrange for this constitution to be signed in a single copy by the diplomatic representatives, duly authorised thereto, of the nations who shall have notified their acceptance and upon being signed on behalf of not less than twenty of the nations so specified in Annex I, this Constitution shall come into force immediately."

To dispose of the Interim Commission I might say that the last article of all (Article 26) provides for the dissolution of the Interim Commission on the opening of the first session of the Conference, the Governing Body of this Organisation.

Now, Sir, the Constitution has been sent to us at this stage for our acceptance or rejection. I wish to make it quite plain that we cannot now usefully suggest alterations or modifications in the Constitution. We can accept it and join the Organisation or we can reject it and stay outside. We cannot usefully say "We will accept it if you make such and such changes in it". That would be rejection for the time being, rejection either till we changed our own minds or till those who joined the Organisation adopted our view and modified the Constitution in the way suggested.

I should like now to refer, as briefly as I may, to certain salient features in the scheme of the Constitution. I have shown how the Organisation will be set up when 20 of the United Nations Governments signify their acceptance of the Constitution. The membership is open to all the 45 nations mentioned in Annex I, the United Nations. To be completely effective, such an Organisation as this should be as nearly as possible world-wide and a provision is made for the admission of new Member States,—neutrals and our present enemies,—with the approval of two-thirds of all the then existing Member States, on acceptance, of course, of the Constitution and its obligations as they may be at that date. A Member nation can give notice of withdrawal from the Organisation but only after four years from the acceptance of the Constitution; and the notice shall take effect one year after its receipt by the Organisation. In effect membership is, therefore, for a minimum period of 5 years, and the Member nation must meet its obligations to the Organisation for the whole period before withdrawing.

The Governing Body of the Organisation will be called the "Conference". I think it is worth mentioning that particularly, because hitherto we have been applying the word to the Conference that met at Hot Springs, but now the Governing Body of the Organisation, when it is set up, will be called the "Conference". The Conference and its functions are described in Articles III and IV. On the Conference each Member nation shall have only one vote. The Conference, therefore, is a body representative of Governments and not of interests,—not of consumers or producers or co-operatives or capital or labour but "any public International organisation having responsibilities related to those of the organisation" may be invited by the Conference to be represented at meetings of the Conference, without, however, a right to vote. The right to vote in the Conference is reserved to the Member nations.

Next, Sir, as it is not regarded possible for a body like the Conference to remain in session perpetually, power is given to it, and the duty is imposed on it, to appoint an Executive Committee of from 9 to 15 members, not more than one from any single Member nation, and, subject to certain important exceptions laid down, to delegate to that body such functions as it deems fit. Now, Sir, membership of this smaller body is limited to 15 at most. It is clear that on this body, unlike the Conference, all the Member nations cannot be represented. Article V prescribes "that subject to their being qualified by special administrative experience or other special qualifications to contribute to the attainment of the purpose of the Organisation", regard shall be had by the Conference, in appointing the Executive Committee, "to the desirability that its membership should reflect as varied as possible an experience of different types of economy in relation to food and agriculture". That is obviously designed to secure that different parts of the world shall be represented.

on this body, which cannot under the Constitution exceed fifteen in number. This committee, of course, will have no executive functions *par-a-via* the Member nations. The whole function of the Organisation, even at the Conference level, is advisory so far as Member nations are concerned. I should like to draw attention also to clause 4 of Article V: 'The members of the Executive Committee shall exercise the powers delegated to them by the Conference on behalf of the whole Conference and not as representative of their respective Governments.'

The permanent staff of the Organisation will work under a Director General. This staff, again, will be selected on as wide a geographical basis as possible, 'subject to the paramount importance of securing the highest standards of efficiency and of technical competence'. Once appointed, they are to be the servants of the Organisation and their responsibilities are to be international. In fact, the Governments of the countries to which they belong by nationality are not to pay any extra salaries over and above what the staff will draw from the Organisation or to seek to influence them in any way. They are to be the servants of the Organisation. The Conference, that is the governing body, may appoint technical and regional standing committees or committee to study special subjects and may convene general technical, regional or other special conferences and invite representatives to the effect of other bodies, national or international concerned with nutrition, food or agriculture. For the better maintenance of liaison, it may establish and maintain regional offices. It may also co-operate with other "public international organisations" and may, subject to the approval of the Conference, constitute a part of, that is to say actually join, any general organisation entrusted with the co-ordination of activities of international organisations having, like themselves, specialised responsibilities.

These powers and this machinery are to enable the Organisation to carry out the objects of the Organisation which are very succinctly set out in the Preamble of the Constitution. They are as follows:—

- (a) to raise the levels of nutrition and standards of living among the peoples of the world
- (b) to secure improvements in the efficiency of the production and distribution of all food and agricultural products (and that, under the Constitution, includes fisheries, marine and forest products, and non-food agricultural crops)
- (c) to better the conditions of rural populations, and
- (d) by these means to contribute towards an expanding world economy.

The methods to be employed for the furtherance of these objectives will include the promotion of research, the collection, collation and dissemination of knowledge, the exchange of services and the making of recommendations for national and international action. This last will be effected by means of "recommendations" or "conventions" forwarded to Member nations for their consideration, after approval by a two-thirds majority of votes cast in the Conference itself—the governing body. In other words, the Organisation will operate by tendering advice and on occasions assistance, but not by executive action overriding national susceptibilities. The Constitution contains in Article XX the machinery and power for its own amendment. A two-thirds majority of all the Member nations is required for an amendment of the Constitution and no amendment which imposes new obligations will be binding on a Member nation until its Government accepts that obligation. The effect of this is that every Member nation knows what obligations it is accepting when it joins the Organisation and that these cannot be increased without its consent. The only exception is a financial one. This does not apply to the financial burden and I propose to deal with this as my last point on the Constitution.

The annual budget of the Organisation is to be settled by the Conference. It will decide not only what it is going to spend, but also how to collect it,—in other words, how much each Member nation is to contribute. By joining the

[Mr. J. D. Tyson.]

Organisation, we accept the liability to find year by year the funds which the whole body of the Conference may by a majority decision allocate to us as our share. Now, Sir, that is undoubtedly a surrender of sovereignty. At the same time we shall have exactly the same voice as every other Member nation in assessing our own and every other nation's share. It is a democratic arrangement which allows of consideration being given to changing conditions from time to time, which I think a fixed formula could not do. So far as one can see, the burden is never likely to be very heavy and the organisation is one from which India, as a great, but in some ways backward, agricultural country, probably stands to gain great benefit. The normal budget for the first five years is expected to be of the degree of five million dollars. For the first year, the figure adopted is $2\frac{1}{2}$ million dollars, and the Government of India's share has been assessed at 4.25 per cent, which, I think, works out to about three lakhs of rupees. As countries at present under enemy occupation or severely hind waste can be set free and gradually recover their prosperity, the proportionate share allocated to them may be expected to increase and India's proportionate share may to that extent be reduced. I believe I am correct in saying that our contribution to the League of Nations is at the rate of about six per cent of the total requirements of that body.

Sir, I am afraid it has taken me some time to describe the Constitution, but I submit that, in itself, it has the merits of brevity, simplicity, clarity and flexibility. It is flexible for two reasons. In the first place, it contains the machinery for its own amendment, subject to safeguards which a Member nation is free to invoke or not as it thinks fit. Secondly, it is flexible because it is singularly free from embarrassing detail which, if it were there, could hardly take account of every future possibility and might without its being intended fetter the Organisation in its attempts to adapt itself from time to time to the conditions of a changing world.

This Constitution comes to us with the unanimous blessings of the Interim Commission on which the Governments of all the United Nations, including India, were represented and equally represented. India has much to offer to such an Organisation, I believe she has also much to gain from it. For both these reasons, the former no less than the latter, I would respectfully urge the House to accept my Motion and show that India is prepared to play her part with a world organisation to bring to mankind freedom from want. Sir, I move.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdul Rahim) Motion moved.

"That this Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council to accept the Constitution of the permanent Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations."

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Guntur and Nellore Non-Muhammadan Rural) Sir, I move.

"That at the end of the Resolution, the following be added
'and trusts that the said Organisation will work for the promotion of the interests of agricultural producers no less than of consumers'."

The motion is self-explanatory. Sir, I move.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdul Rahim) Amendment moved.

"That at the end of the Resolution, the following be added
'and trusts that the said Organisation will work for the promotion of the interests of agricultural producers no less than of consumers'."

Mr. K. C. Neogy (Dacca Division Non-Muhammadan Rural) Sir, I move.

"That at the end of the Resolution, the following be added
'on the understanding that the Central Government will implement the recommendations of the said Organisation in regard to all important questions of policy, subject to the approval of the Legislature'."

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdul Rahim) Amendment moved.

"That at the end of the Resolution, the following be added
'on the understanding that the Central Government will implement the recommendations of the said Organisation in regard to all important questions of policy, subject to the approval of the Legislature'."

Mr. Kuladhar Chaliha (Assam Valley Non-Muhammadan) Sir, by heart and training we are always opposed to anything that emanates from the Treasury

Bengals, but it will be surprising that, I as one of the Congress Members, am going to support this motion. We are prepared to accept anything that conduces to the welfare of the Indian community and improving the agricultural conditions of this unfortunate country. In these days of global wars global planning and international politics we cannot remain isolated, and we are therefore prepared more and more to take part in these international organizations that would help us to get out of our difficulties. The constitution of the Organization under discussion has for its objects the raising of the levels of nutrition and raising the standards of living of the peoples in their respective jurisdictions as such, securing improvement in the efficiency of production and distribution of all food and agricultural products and bettering the conditions of the rural population, and as such I think we cannot but give our honest support to an Organization like this.

Sir, in India we have a population of about 388 million depending entirely on agriculture and we have seen instances, in Bengal for instance, where for want of food half a crore of people died within a few months. So we cannot be indifferent to any organization which will help us to find a solution of our difficulties. In any other country such a situation would have provoked a rebellion but, situated as we are, we could not do anything but bow down to the divine dispensation and submit to the will of the ruling power. If we had the power and the organization such a situation as that could not have occurred. And having tried our best we come to an organization which will, of course, probably give us very little, and being members of a subject nation our fate on this body will perhaps be the same as in other similar bodies. But it is necessary still that we should take greater and greater part in these international organizations, so that the world may know the difficulties and the starvation through which we in India have been passing. Can we imagine any other part of the world where people would die in their thousands in the streets as in Calcutta, thousands dying for want of shelter and shivering for want of clothes? This could not happen anywhere else except in India where the vitality of the people has been sapped entirely. Therefore we should utilise the machinery of this organization and that is why we support this proposal. It is believed that India produces sufficient rice which is the staple crop of the people in the different provinces. We had 72 million acres of land under rice and we produced about 27 million tons of rice, in 1939-40. In 1940-41 we had 69 million acres under rice, giving a production of 21 million tons. So practically we are short by about 10 million tons. We imported a small portion 1.34 million tons of rice from Indo-China and Siam, and there was a considerable import also from Burma. It is wrongly believed in this House and also outside that Assam has extensive lands where people from Bengal can go and grow food. We have about 51,000 square miles of land of which more than 60 per cent is covered by hills, and only 20 per cent of that is available and it is almost entirely cultivated. It is wrongly believed that the uncultivated area can be occupied by immigrants from Mymensingh.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) That question does not arise on this motion.

Mr. Kuladhar Chaliha: It is relevant in this way that if proper methods are adopted even in Bengal and lands are drained, they will have less reason to go to Assam and we can solve our problem.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) That is not the proposition before the House.

Mr. Kuladhar Chaliha: I understand. I am coming to that point. In Bengal, five million acres is under jute—they have reduced now by restriction to 2.13 million acres.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) I must ask the Honourable Member not to discuss a question like that. It does not arise out of this motion.

Mr. Kuladhar Chaliha: No, Sir

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) The Honourable Member must not go into it

Mr. Kuladhar Chaliha: No, Sir I am only suggesting that in place of jute

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) I must ask the Honourable Member not to go into that question

Mr. Kuladhar Chaliha: All right, Sir If the low lands of Bengal can be drained and

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) I think the Honourable Member is again going into questions that do not arise There is no question of Bengal, or Assam or waste lands before the House

Mr. Kuladhar Chaliha: But I am trying to establish that if this Organisation can give us help in the matter of irrigation

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) After membership of the Organization has been accepted and when that question arises, then the Honourable Member can discuss it, but not now

Mr. Kuladhar Chaliha: I hope that this Organisation will give us help in irrigating our low lands and in finding out methods by which land can be improved and every province can be self-sufficient We want rice in our Eastern provinces and we want to find out methods which will be useful to us so that we may bring this question before the Organization of the United Nations. That is why I want that there should be more rice production in India and especially in Assam, Bengal, Bihar and Orissa

The Government of India has admitted that out of the 288 million acres only fifty-seven and odd million acres is irrigated and there is still a lot more to be irrigated

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) I think the Honourable Member is again dilating upon the same question

Mr. Kuladhar Chaliha: No, Sir The Honourable Mr. Tyson has given us a lucid exposition of the entire constitution, it is no use repeating it over and over again Will this Organization improve our fisheries, will it improve our forestry? That is very necessary We will very much appreciate if this Organization can help us in these directions, and also if this Organization can help in raising the levels of nutrition which is necessary Livestock have also to be improved In the Eastern provinces we find that the nutritious value of grasses is so low that even cattle are like pigmies We have in India 380 million heads of cattle If they can help in improving the breeds of our livestock they would be doing a great service

There is another question which should be considered—research in different branches of agriculture and allied subjects Research in order to improve also fisheries, forestry, etc. and how it should be done And then there is the question of helping the agricultural population by agricultural credit They should have a proper plan for that This question should be discussed in a proper committee and go to the international credit agencies for help Sir, I am being hampered by the difficulty that I am not able to discuss the problems which face our own country, but these are the questions which will have to be tackled in spite of the fact that the Organization discusses the question as a whole

Sir, it is of the greatest importance that levels of nutrition and standards of living of our people should be raised within a limited period and that brings us again to the problem of housing Have we evolved any solution how 388 millions of people should be housed? Have they tried to place any material at our disposal, have they considered how it is to be done These questions should be gone into so that we may be able to take these points for discussion before the United Nations in order that they may help in giving us better housing than before (*Interruption*) If the Honourable Member feels inconvenient even in these palatial houses how very necessary it is to consider these

questions in the case of those who are in the streets and who are feeling difficulties of food and raiment and who have no shelter over their heads. Therefore it is essentially necessary that this question should be tackled seriously and taken to the Organization for discussion.

With these few words I support the resolution which has been ably moved by my Honourable friend Mr. Tyson and who has given us a very good idea of the entire constitution. With these words of appreciation and also with our support, I recommend that this Constitution be accepted.

Mr. Ananga Mohan Das (Surma Valley cum Shilong Non-Muhammadan): Sir, it is a matter of great pleasure that the whole world has been interested in the amelioration of the condition of the agriculturists in India. Poverty is the only political problem of India, it is hampering the progress of India in all spheres—social, political and economic. The basic industry of agriculture, on which every other industry depends, is in such an undeveloped state that if any visitor from outside, any expert from outside, will come and see, Indians will have to hang their heads in shame when they compare the conditions prevailing here with the conditions in other countries.

Sir, the constitution, as the Government Member has put it before us, is very good. We have got the constitution of the United National Relief and Rehabilitation Administration also. In connection with that boards were constituted, committees were formed, but when the question of application of those facilities to India was considered, we could not find how we could be helped. In this case of course we find that a better attempt has been made. But the Final Act of the United Nations Conference says that the primary responsibility lies with each nation for seeing that its own people have the food needed for life and health. Steps to this end are for national determination. The whole responsibility is on the Government of India. Our Government is responsible for the food of our people. Our Government is responsible for the health of our people. So if the Government of India does not lay out a proper policy for developing the country on the lines suggested by the United Nations, then we gain nothing by being a member of the United Nations Organisation.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) It is 5 o'clock now. The Honourable Member can continue his speech tomorrow.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday, the 21st November, 1944.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 21st November, 1944

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber of the Council House at Eleven of the Clock, Mr President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) in the Chair

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(a) ORAL ANSWERS

RESEARCH WORK FOR GOVERNMENT AT TATA RESEARCH INSTITUTE

635. *Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: Will the Honourable Member for Planning and Development please state

(a) the various kinds of work that was sent by the Government for research to the Tata Research Institute at Bangalore since 1940,

(b) the work or works in respect of which research is completed,

(c) the work or works in respect of which research is discontinued by the order of the Government, and

(d) the work or works in respect of which work could not be completed because of lack of raw materials or chemicals?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House in due course

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: Is the Honourable Member aware that he must have received notice of this question long ago and must have had sufficient time to collect the information by now?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: It is not my Department which is handling it I know for a fact that only a part of the information has been received

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: Can we have as much information as is available with the Honourable Member now?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: No, Sir, it is very voluminous

POLITICAL PRISONERS

636. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state

(a) the latest available number of political prisoners held in different provinces,

(b) how many of them are convicts and how many detenus in different provinces,

(c) how many of them are held on account of the political unrest prevailing since October, 1939 and how many since August, 1942,

(d) how many have died in jails, how many had to be released on medical grounds, since October, 1939,

(e) how many of them are at present in 'C' class, whether as detenus or as convicts and how many in 'B' and 'G' classes,

(f) whether it is not a fact that in some provinces, 'B' class detenus are not given any better food or clothing than the usual 'C' class convicts

(g) whether it is not true that the six monthly review of the detenus detention orders are coming to result in the continuation of the detention for more than 75 per cent of detenus, and

(h) what percentage of detenus were released at the second review made after the passage of the new amending ordinance, ordering such a half yearly review? (please give Provincewise figures)

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a), (b) and (c) I lay on the table a statement giving such information as is available

(d) and (e) The Government of India have no detailed information and the labour involved in collecting it would not be justified in war time.

(f) The principle recommended to all Provinces is that class I detenus should get diet, clothing etc., at least as good as 'B' class convicts and class II

*Answer to this question laid on the table the questioner being absent

detenus should get distinctly better treatment than 'C' class convicts I understand that practically all the Provinces have accepted this principle

(g) No From such calculations as I have been able to make from the figures supplied by the Provinces it appears that the percentage of releases during the first six months after the promulgation of Ordinance III was over 50

(h) The Honourable Member is under a misapprehension As I have explained before, the process of review is continuous and does not take place only at six monthly intervals

Provinces	Persons in detention in connection with Congress Movement	Persons in detention for other reasons	Persons undergoing imprisonment in connection with Congress Movement
<i>On the 1st October 1944</i>			
Madras	286	24	709
Bombay	272	29	483
Bengal	54	1,237	252
United Provinces	589	91	3,452
Punjab	79	28	61
Bihar	269	50	4,127
Central Provinces	136		503
Assam	162		159
North West Frontier Provinces	42	16	28
Orissa	129		466
Sind	27	1,707	11
Coorg			
Delhi	21		102
Ajmer-Merwara	7		3
Baluchistan			
Total	2,073	3,182	10,356

PROPAGANDISTS EMPLOYED BY GOVERNMENT

637. *Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Will the Honourable Member for Information and Broadcasting please state

(a) whether he is aware of the statement of Mr D G Mulherkar, the Indian Employers' delegate to the International Conference in the press that about three hundred people are employed by the Government to do propaganda on their behalf,

(b) whether it is true, and, if so, how many propagandists are so employed and the money spent for that purpose?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: (a) Yes

(b) It is not true

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Is it true that the Government have no propagandists at all in America?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: The question was whether it is true and, if so, how many propagandists My answer is that it is not true

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I know from the Honourable Member whether there are any propagandists on behalf of the Government of India in America?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: No propagandists, Sir

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I know what agency they have to disseminate Indian information in America?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: Publicity Officers

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: How many such officers are employed by the Department and how much money is spent on them?

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: The question asks as to how much money is spent Will the Honourable Member kindly answer that part of the question?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: For propaganda purposes, nil

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Why have Government not thought fit to deny the allegations that are published in the press?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: I do not think I should go about denying every statement that is made in the press, because in that case the Department will have to be doubled

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Is it because that the press statements are substantially true?

Mr. K. C. Neegy: Will the Honourable Member be pleased to lay on the table of the Library such extracts from the American press as would give us an indication about the nature of the publicity work undertaken by his Department?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: I cannot answer that offhand but if it is possible I shall try to comply with the request

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: The question has already been asked and the answer must already have been given

BAN ON WATCH TOWER BIBLE AND TRACT SOCIETY PUBLICATIONS

638. *Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Will the Honourable the Home Member please state

(a) whether the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society has been banned from publishing any pamphlets under the Defence of India Rules,

(b) whether the Society's publications are mainly religious and drawn from the Bible, and

(c) if so, what are the reasons for the ban?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) Yes

(b) Mainly so

(c) It was held that the Society's publications had implications other than religious. The question of the maintenance of the ban has been under the consideration of Government for some time. It has now been decided to remove it

INTERVIEWS OF MR RAMANATHAN AND OTHERS WITH MR RAJAGOPALACHARIAR IN TRICHINOPOLY JAIL

639. *Pandit Nilakantha Das: Will the Honourable the Home Member please state

(a) when did Mr Ramanathan, ex-Congress Minister of Madras return from Japan,

(b) if he interviewed Mr Rajagopalachariar in Trichinopoly jail on his return from Japan and if that interview took place in the presence of the jail officers,

(c) if the Government is aware of the details of the conversation of the interview,

(d) if it is a fact that the then Advocate General and another advocate also interviewed Mr Rajagopalachariar in prison,

(e) if the Government is aware that the jail officials were absent at that time and that the draft resolution to Sapru Conference in Delhi was sent through the Advocate General,

(f) if the Government is aware of the reports in the press including report of Mr Jinnah that the resolution for Sapru Conference had been drafted by Mr Rajagopalachariar,

(g) whether it is a fact that Mr Avinashilingam Chettiar, M.L.A., (Central) was keeping a diary of daily events while he was himself a prisoner in Trichinopoly jail,

(h) did the Government censure that diary at any time,

(i) if Government have found any extract in the diary referring to the incidents mentioned above, and

(j) if he will be pleased to place those relevant extracts before the House?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I have no information

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: Can't the Honourable Member ask for information from the questioner?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I do not think it necessary

DENIAL OF APPLICABILITY OF ARMY ACT AND ROYAL WARRANT PRIVILEGES TO INDIAN FORCES

640. *Mr. Sami Vencatachalam Chetty: Will the War Secretary please state

(a) if the attention of the Government has been drawn to the words "V C O's and I O R's are not governed by Royal Warrant and Army Act, but by I A A", occurring in the letter No 24262/17/2/94, dated 22nd June, 1943 of the Officer Incharge R and A Section (D U) 19th Hyderabad Regimental Centre, in which the applicability of the Army Act and Royal Warrant privileges have been denied to Indian Forces, and

(b) if the answer to (a) be in the affirmative the statutory authority of the Officer Incharge referred to in (a) or of any other higher executive or Audit Officer under whose instructions the applicability of the Army Act and Royal Warrant has been denied as stated in (a)?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: (a) and (b) I have not seen the letter referred to by the Honourable Member. I am calling for it and will lay a reply on the table of the House in due course.

DISMISSALS OF VICEEROY'S COMMISSIONED OFFICERS, ETC ON ACTIVE SERVICE

641. *Mr. Sami Vencatachalam Chetty: Will the War Secretary please state if Government are aware that Viceroy's Commissioned Officers and Non-Commissioned Officers of His Majesty's Indian Forces on "Active Service" and of over 15 years service have been dismissed and discharged with ignominy by orders of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief and General Officer Commanding without taking recourse to Court Martial proceedings, and then Military Pensions, payable according to their length of service, had been stopped and forfeited in full and in some cases in part, without an express Warrant or order by a judicial body?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: The position is as follows.

Under Section 13 of the Indian Army Act, the Commander-in-Chief has powers to *dismiss* from service any person subject to the Indian Army Act other than an Indian Commissioned Officer. Pension Regulations for the Army in India, Part II, provide that when an individual subject to the Indian Army Act is *dismissed* under the provisions of that Act, he shall forfeit all claim to pension or gratuity in respect of previous service. He may however be granted a pension in full or in part purely as an act of grace.

Under Section 16 of the Indian Army Act, General Officers Commanding-in-Chief are empowered to discharge V C Os and N C Os, but an individual who is *discharged* shall be granted any pension or gratuity to which he may be entitled. I am not aware whether the Commanding-in-Chief has exercised his powers under Section 13 in recent years without recourse to a Court Martial. I am making enquiries and will lay information on the table in due course.

CERTAIN UNAUTHORISED DEDUCTIONS FROM PENSIONS OF INDIAN PERSONNEL OF INDIAN FORCES

642. *Mr. Sami Vencatachalam Chetty: Will the War Secretary please state

(a) if Government are aware that in the cases of Indian Personnel of His Majesty's Indian Forces, death and disablement pensions have commenced with effect from a date later than the date of casualty and deductions not authorised by Section 136 of the Army Act and Sections 50, 51, 52 A of the Indian Army Act have been made

(b) if the answer to (a) be in the affirmative, the statutory authority introducing in the regulations for the Army in India the "deductions" referred to in (a),

(c) whether Government propose to appoint a special officer of some judicial experience to consider the grievances in this respect judicially, if not, why not?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: (a) No, Sir. Pensions for death or disablement attributable to war service are paid from the date following that of the casualty.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

CERTAIN DEDUCTIONS FOR DISCHARGE FROM SERVICE IN THE CASE OF INDIAN PERSONNEL OF INDIAN FORCES

643. *Mr. Sami Vencatachalam Chetty: Will the War Secretary please state

(a) if it is a fact that in the Pension Regulations for the Army in India certain rules have been included which authorise "deductions" for discharges from the service of Indian Personnel on account of "service no longer required", irrespective of the fact whether the individuals are on "Active Service" or in ordinary peace conditions, if so,

(b) what the statutory authority for introducing the rules in (a) is and also steps which Government propose to take to redress the gréevances of the persons affected thereby, viz as in (a)?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: (a) No, Sir The position is explained in rules 232 and 233 of Pensions Regulations Part II I will arrange to place a copy of these two rules in the library of the House

(b) Does not arise

REFUSAL OF NON-EFFECTIVE PAY DURING WAR TO CERTAIN INDIAN PERSONNEL OF INDIAN FORCES

644. *Mr. Sami Vencatachellam Chetty: Will the War Secretary please state

(a) if Government are aware that non-effective pay during the war, has been refused to Indian Personnel enrolled "for duration of war and 12 months thereafter" in forces raised on behalf of His Majesty under Section 313 (2) (b) of the Government of India Act, 1935, and that it has been refused even in such cases where the termination of the individual's contract was due to (i) services no longer required (ii) disability sustained on "Active Service" rendering the individual unfit for further Military Service (iii) deaths on "Active Service" which have been adjudicated non-judicially as not attributable to Military Service,

(b) if the answer to (a) be in the affirmative, the circumstances in which these stoppages referred to in (a) have continued during this long period of the war, and

(c) if the answer to (a) be in the negative, whether Government propose to devise some special judicial machinery which will exclude the existing non-judicial machinery to consider the significance of the "Duration of War and 12 months after" contract in (a) after the usage and practice prevailing in the United Kingdom or in accordance with the procedure prescribed in the War Injuries Insurance Act and Workmen's Compensation Act or War Pensions Act?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: (a) and (b) Indian personnel enrolled for combatant service before and during this war are eligible under the same military rules for ordinary and disability pensions. Similarly, families of war-enlisted soldiers are eligible for family pensions in the same way as the families of those who were enlisted before the War

(c) Does not arise in view of my reply to (a) and (b) above I may, however, add that Government propose to set up independent Pensions Appeal Tribunals to whom appeals will lie against decisions relating to pensions cases

COMMUNAL COMPOSITION IN HIGHER POSTS OF ALL-INDIA RADIO

645. *Sardar Sant Singh: Will the Honourable Member for Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state

(a) the number of employees in the All-India Radio receiving pays (i) above Rs 1,000 p m, (ii) between Rs 600 and Rs 1,000 p m and (iii) between Rs 300 and Rs 600 p m as employed (i) for the duration of War and (ii) otherwise;

(b) how many of these are (i) Hindus, (ii) Muslims and (iii) Sikhs in each category mentioned above, as employed for (i) the duration of War and (ii) otherwise; and

(c) whether the Government are aware that the Central Sikh Rights Secretariat has been established at New Delhi to co-operate with the Government in this direction?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: (a) and (b) A statement giving the required information is laid on the table of the House

(c) The establishment of such a body has been brought to the notice of Government.

Statement showing the number of employees in All-India Radio receiving a pay of Rs 300 p m and over and how many of these are Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs, etc., as employed for the duration of the war and otherwise

Category of post*	Number of persons receiving a pay above Rs 1,000 p m				
	Hindus	Muslims	Sikhs	Others	Total
For the duration of War		1		1	2
Others	3	1		2	6
Total	3	2		3	8

Category of post	Number of persons receiving a pay between Rs 600 and Rs 1,000 p m				
	Hindus	Muslims	Sikhs	Others	Total
For the duration of War	6	1		1	8
Others	7	2	1	1	11
Total	13	3	1	2	19

Category of post	Number of persons receiving a pay between Rs 300 and Rs 600 p m				
	Hindus	Muslims	Sikhs	Others	Total
For the duration of War	37	25	2	5	69
Others	33	8		2	43
Total	70	33	2	7	112

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Have the Government recognised that Secretariat?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: It has been brought to the notice of the Government that is all I can say.

LOWER ALLOWANCES OF RECIPIENTS OF VICTORIA AND MILITARY CROSSES OF THE LAST WAR

646. *Sardar Sant Singh: Will the War Secretary please state

(a) if it is a fact that the recipients of Victoria Cross, Military Cross and other distinctions in the war have been granted allowances higher than those paid to similar recipients of the last wars, if so, what the reasons are for not increasing the similar allowances of the recipients of the first war;

(b) if the Government is aware that it has caused heart burning amongst the veterans of the last war?

Mr. O. M. Trivedi: (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Consequent on a revision of the decorations which may be awarded to V C's, and I O's, for gallantry, a change in the system of allowances which accompany the awards was necessitated. The question of increasing the allowances which go with these decorations awarded prior to the revision is now under consideration.

RETRANSFER OF HINDI SECTION OF BUREAU OF PUBLIC INFORMATION TO DELHI

647. *Mr. Ramayan Prasad: Will the Honourable Member for Information and Broadcasting please state

(a) the steps taken by his Department to call back the Hindi Section of the Bureau of Public Information to Delhi from Lahore where it had been sent in February, 1944, in the face of great opposition of the Hindi Press, and

(b) if it is not a fact that 90 per cent of the Hindi Press is situated East of Delhi and material sent from Lahore to it is likely to be delayed generally from 12 hours to 24 hours?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: (a) The transfer of the Hindi Section to Lahore was necessitated by the acute shortage of accommodation in Delhi on balance of priorities among various Departments of Government. It will be brought back to Delhi as soon as accommodation is forthcoming, and an adjustment of the aforesaid priorities permits this move. This matter is even now under consideration.

(b) My information is that 73 per cent of the Hindi Newspapers on the Bureau's mailing list are issued from places east of Delhi. As regards the last part of the question, I would invite the attention of the Honourable Member to the reply given by me on the 23rd February, 1944, to part (b) of Mr. Kailash Bihari Lal's starred question No. 180 in the Legislative Assembly.

*** ALLOTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL LAND IN DELHI CANTONMENT**

†648. ***Bhai Parmanand:** Will the Honourable the Defence Member be pleased to state—

(a) if it is a fact that agricultural land in the Delhi Cantonment area instead of being put to auction was allotted to a few persons at a very low rent in 1940 without any regard for the persons from whom this land was acquired, and

(b) whether the Government are prepared to auction the agricultural land to the agriculturists who alone should be allowed to bid at the auction?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: The information has been called for and a reply will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

DIFFERENCE IN PAY AND ALLOWANCES OF BRITISH AND INDIAN EMERGENCY COMMISSIONED OFFICERS

649. ***Mr. Lalchand Navarai:** Will the War Secretary be pleased to state—
(a) the difference in pay and allowances, excluding Indian Army Allowance, between a British Emergency Commissioned Officer, attached or posted to the Indian Army and that of an Indian Emergency Commissioned Officer,

(b) if it is a fact that a British married Captain with two children who is attached or posted to the Indian Army gets Rs. 835 (excluding his Indian Army Allowance), whereas an Indian married Captain with two children gets only Rs. 610, if so, why is this differentiation,

(c) if it is a fact that the consolidated pay of an Indian Emergency Commissioned Officer is based on that of his British service colleague, if so, why the consolidated pay of an Indian Major is only Rs. 765 whereas that of his British service colleague is Rs. 965, and

(d) whether Government propose to remove these invidious differences, if not why not?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: (a) A statement showing the pay and allowances (excluding Indian Army Allowance in the case of British officers), admissible to British and Indian Emergency Commissioned Officers, is laid on the table.

(b) The reply to the first part of the question is in the negative. The pay and allowances of a married British Captain living with his family consisting of wife and two children amount to Rs. 765 p.m. exclusive of Indian Army allowance. The reason is that the rank pay of a British officer includes an overseas element and that the family allowances vary according to the size of the family.

(c) Yes, Sir, because of the overseas element included in the pay of the British officer.

(d) The matter is engaging the attention of the Government.

Statement

Rank	British Emergency Commissioned Officer				Indian Emergency Commissioned Officer	
	Single	Married living with family consisting of—			Single	Married. (irrespective of Number of children)
		Wife only	Wife and one child	Wife and two children		
		Rs. p.m.	Rs. p.m.	Rs. p.m.	Rs. p.m.	Rs. p.m.
2/Lieut.		405	485	575	405	450
Lieut.		460	535	625	430	490
Captain		590	655	725	500	610
Major		965	1,015	1,055	765	850
Lieut.-Col.		1,300	1,325	1,365	1,090	1,145

†Answer to this question

the table, the questioner being absent

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: May I request the Honourable Member, in view of the great discontent about these differences, to consider these questions, being an Indian himself, and remove this discontent and the differences because the children of one family and the children of the other are more or less on the same level?

Mr. O. M. Trivedi: I have already said that the matter is engaging the attention of the Government.

SUPERSESSION OF CERTAIN INDIAN SENIOR OFFICERS OF INDIAN ARMY MEDICAL CORPS

650. *Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: (a) Will the War Secretary be pleased to state in reference to the answer given to starred question No 107 asked on the 29th July, 1943 by Mr G V Deshmukh whether the two Indian Senior Officers of Indian Army Medical Corps who did not then hold appointments commensurate with their seniority, but were holding special appointments from which they were not being spared, are still holding the same appointments?

(b) How long will they be made to hold appointments not commensurate with their seniority?

(c) Why have their claims been overlooked for no fault of theirs?

(d) Do Government propose to redress their grievance and make them hold appointments commensurate with their seniority? If not, why not?

Mr. O. M. Trivedi: (a) Of the two Indian Officers of the Indian Army Medical Corps referred to by the Honourable Member, one has since been promoted, but has now applied for reversion to work in his specialist capacity.

The other officer still holds the same appointment. He is in medical category "C", and declined last year an offer which would have led to further promotion if found satisfactory.

(b) It is not possible to say, for the reasons given in (a) above.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: May I know if the second officer also will be given an opportunity now to get that promotion? If he has not accepted it once, he may accept it now.

Mr. O. M. Trivedi: I do not know. Last year he was asked whether he was willing to be treated as on probation prior to consideration for promotion to the rank of an administrative Colonel on the military side of the I M S. He declined the offer.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: May I ask the Honourable Member to make an attempt again to ask him and if he still refuses then it cannot be helped otherwise the promotion should be given to him.

Mr. O. M. Trivedi: I will consider that.

LITERARY ATTAINMENTS OF OFFICERS ON THE HINDUSTANI PROGRAMME SIDE OF ALL-INDIA RADIO

†651. *Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall: Will the Honourable Member for Information and Broadcasting please state —

(a) how many of the present Station Directors, Director of programmes, programme executive and other responsible officers on the Hindustani programme side are Hindi writers or scholars of repute, and how many of them are Urdu writers and scholars of repute?

(b) if it is a fact that (i) sometime ago a Board consisting of well known Urdu poets and authors was constituted for selecting *Ghazals* to be sung on radio in A I R programmes;

(c) if a similar Board consisting of well known Hindi poets and authors has also been constituted for the selection of Hindi *Geets*, if not, why not;

(d) whether Government promise to constitute such a Board now, and

(e) how much money has been spent over the selection of Urdu *Ghazals* through the above Board; and how much money has been spent over the selection of Hindi *Geets*?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: (a) The required information is not readily available. It is being collected, and will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

†An answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner being absent.

(b) to (d) No such Boards have been set up so far. I may, however, explain that a scheme for the compilation of selections from the works of various poets, for the use of the Indian music staff of All-India Radio is under consideration. This scheme will cover not only *Ghazals* and *Geets*, but all other types of songs in both Urdu and Hindi, written by Urdu as well as Hindi poets. The scheme also contemplates a selection of songs suitable for broadcasting available in the other Indian languages in which A.I.R. broadcast music.

(e) As the scheme is not yet in operation, the question does not arise.

POETS WHOSE *GAZALS* AND *GEETS* HAVE BEEN SUNG ON RADIO

†652. *Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall: Will the Honourable Member for Information and Broadcasting please state

(a) the names of those living Urdu poets whose *Ghazals* and other poems have been sung on radio in the last six months, and

(b) the names of those living Hindi poets whose *Geets* or other poems have been sung on the radio during the same period?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: The information asked for is not readily available and its collection would involve an amount of time and labour that would not be justifiable in war time.

AUTHORITY FOR DETERMINING ALL-INDIA RADIO'S POLICY TOWARDS HINDI

†653. *Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall: Will the Honourable Member for Information and Broadcasting please state who is responsible for determining All-India Radio's policy towards Hindi and whose advice is sought in matters relating to Hindi?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: The All-India Radio have no special Hindi policy. The Government of India lay down the language policy which applies to all languages and is intended to secure the maximum intelligibility for All-India Radio broadcasts.

BAN ON CERTAIN HINDI WORDS FROM HINDUSTANI BULLETINS BROADCAST

†654. *Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall: Will the Honourable Member for Information and Broadcasting please state whether it is a fact that the Director-General, All-India Radio, has banned, through a circular, the use in Hindustani Bulletins broadcast from All-India Radio's Station of such simple words as *Deshbhakt*, *Sathi Mukh*, *Swagat*, *Jalghati*, *Thalghati*, *Kala Sagar*, *Hind Sagar*, etc., if so, the reasons if any for banning these words?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: "*Desh Bhagat*" is still used if the person referred to is a Hindu. The other words were discontinued as it was represented to me that other alternatives were more widely intelligible. In this connection, I would, however, invite the attention of the Honourable Member to the reply given by me on 8th November 1944 to Mr. G. V. Deshmukh's starred question No. 170.

EDITOR OF *SARANG*

†655. *Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall: Will the Honourable Member for Information and Broadcasting please state who is the actual Editor of *Sarang* and what are his journalistic qualifications and experience, and if the *Sarang* is being printed in type how is it that its text is not illustrated like that of the *Indian Listener*?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: The *Sarang* is actually edited by Mr. J. L. Birmani. He is the Sub-Editor in charge of *Sarang* and works under the guidance of Mr. S. N. Ghosh, who is the Editor of *Indian Listener*, *Awaz* and *Sarang*. Mr. Ghosh is an experienced journalist of several years' standing.

Mr. Birmani himself has worked for six years as Transliterator for *Sarang* during which period he also officiated as its Sub-Editor.

As regards the last part of the question, the sale price of *Indian Listener* is seven annas and that of *Sarang* is only five annas. The introduction of

†Answer to this question laid on the table the questioner being absent

illustrations in *Sarang* would mean a rise in its sale price which is not considered desirable. *Sarang* should be compared with *Awas* as they are both sold at the same price. Neither of them can afford to carry illustrations.

METHODS EMPLOYED IN THE MATTER OF CENSORING LETTERS IN THE POST

656. *Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury: Will the Honourable the Home Member please state

(a) if he is aware that two methods are employed in the matter of censoring letters in the post, one by cutting the envelopes and then closing them before delivery to the addressee, with a thin paper containing the words "opened by examiner", and the other, by opening the letters and refastening them, if so, what the exact principle is in this differentiation,

(b) if the Honourable Member is aware that letters treated in the latter manner are very clumsily gummed by the censors, inordinately delayed, and that when they reach the addressees, they have to be torn out of envelopes and very often get badly mutilated in the process, and

(c) if so, would Government order that the first system alone is followed in all cases, and letters are, as far as possible, cleanly cut open and neatly closed by censors after examination and sent to the addressees?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) All censorship is conducted in the open manner described in the first part of the question. The Post Office Act has, however, for many years conferred powers of secret interception, which is a different matter. These powers are exercised by the Government of India in very exceptional cases. Their whole object would be defeated if they were carried out in the "open" manner followed by the Censors.

(b) No

(c) Does not arise

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it not a fact that letters for a large number of Members in this side of the House are being opened in a surreptitious manner by the postal authorities and by the police in such a manner that the Members concerned are not able to know whether they have been opened or not?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: Very likely, but it is not done by the Government of India.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: The Honourable Member has said that such procedure is adopted in very exceptional cases. Does he mean to say that all of us come under those very exceptional cases?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: We have only got one outstanding case and that is a very exceptional one.

Mr. Abdul Quayum: Will the Honourable Member instruct those who open these letters that when they close them again they should take good care to close them in such a manner that we can extract the letter out of the envelope they apply so much gum that it is impossible to open them again or to extract the contents.

Mr. T. S. Avinashlingam Chettiar: May I know whether Government open these letters at random or they have got a list of persons whose letters alone they open?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: The Government of India have issued an order in the case of one individual only.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: In view of the fact that all my letters are opened—I have an example here. —(The Honourable Member showed an envelope) in a surreptitious manner, may I know if I am that individual?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: He is a much more exceptional person than my Honourable friend.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: In view of the fact that my letters are opened invariably—and the fact is usually discovered by the manner of the gumming of those letters—will the Honourable Member kindly ask the authorities concerned to open them neatly and put on this sort of label (The Honourable Member showed another envelope)—as I have on this other letter of mine?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: The Honourable Member may ask the U P Government in regard to that matter.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: With reference to the Honourable Member's reply to part (b) of the question, is he aware that sometimes in this surreptitious opening process, a book-post envelope is gummed up and made a closed letter—(The Honourable Member showed a third envelope)—with the result that I have to pay an anna and a half extra?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: That is for the War Department to say.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable Member, instead of foisting all the responsibility on the Postal Department which is really innocent in this matter, look into this himself?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: Not the Postal Department—the War Department.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: They will wage war against you straight off—you try them!

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Who decides what letters should be opened?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) Next question

HEALTHS OF DR. GHOSH AND CERTAIN OTHER DETENUS

657. *Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury: Will the Honourable the Home Member please state

(a) the condition of the healths of Dr. Ghosh and Acharya Narendra Dev, Members of the Working Committee of the Indian National Congress, and give a short medical history of their cases since their incarceration, and

(b) under what medical treatment are they put at present, and whether they are entitled to have doctors and medicines of their own choice?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) I lay on the table a medical report on Dr. P. C. Ghosh. Acharya Narendra Dev is well. He has had some attacks of asthma and bronchitis but his health has progressively improved in this respect and he has had no attack since June 1944.

(b) They are in charge of a competent Indian Medical Service officer who can, and does frequently, call in medical and surgical experts for consultation when required. They are not allowed to have doctors and medicines of their own choice.

Medical Report on Dr. P. C. Ghosh

On 21st May 1944, Dr. P. C. Ghosh began to complain of abdominal pain and passage of blood. Examination demonstrated the presence of an internal haemorrhoid but as abdominal symptoms persisted, it was thought advisable to get a sigmoidoscopy of the lower bowel done in order to exclude the possibility of any accompanying serious condition being present. This examination was carried out by a surgical specialist and it was found that there was no condition present in the lower bowel other than the haemorrhoid. This was injected and there was no further bleeding.

Following a period of freedom from symptoms and improvement in the general condition, there was a recurrence in July 1944 of the abdominal symptoms associated with the passage of mucus. Laboratory examinations were negative, but proctoscopic examination indicated the probable cause of the passage of mucus and showed that it was not of any serious significance. The recurrence and persistence of the abdominal symptoms, however, made further investigation essential and it was decided that a barium enema examination should be carried out. This examination was made by a radiologist on 9th August, 1944. There was no abnormality of the bowel and no evidence of any malignant (cancerous) condition of the colon. Since that date there has been a general improvement in Dr. Ghosh's condition although there has been one further passage of blood which seemed to be haemorrhoidal in nature and all laboratory tests for dysentery were negative. He is very carefully dieted and during the last three months he has not lost any weight, an important contraindication in itself to the presence of malignancy or other serious condition. It is intended that a regime of anti amoebic therapy should be tried.

He carries on his normal activities and has shown himself entirely satisfied with what is being done for him, having expressed his gratitude on a number of occasions. He has not made any specific request or suggestion in connection with his illness.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Is any privilege given to these gentlemen to have medical men of any other system beside the allopathic, or are they compelled to have only allopathic surgeons and physicians to treat them?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I would need notice of that question As far as I know there has been no such demand

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Have they ever made any request or demand to Government that they should be allowed to be examined and treated by doctors of their own choice?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: Yes They are not allowed .

Prof. N. G. Ranga: My question is whether they have asked for the privilege of being examined and treated by doctors of their own choice?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: In one or two cases

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I ask whether the Government of India propose to release these members of the Working Committee so that Government need not have trouble about their doctors?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: It is no trouble

Mr. Sri Prakasa: In one or two cases the Honourable Member says they did make a request for doctors other than allopathic May I know what the reply of the Government was to that request

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) He did not say allopathic

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: No

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Even if they wanted other physicians of that same system, were they permitted to have them?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: No, they are in charge of a competent doctor and he is responsible If he wants a second opinion, he calls one in but he is responsible for doing this—not the patient

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Can we know the name of that doctor and his qualifications? Is he in constant residence with them? Is he also interned with them or not?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: Yes, interned! I have forgotten his name for the moment He is a Major in the I M S He resides there

Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury: In cases where the patient himself requires a particular treatment, is it not desirable for Government to agree with that proposal?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I think a patient who prescribes his own treatment is very unwise

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it a fact that Dr P C Ghosh himself has asked for such assistance?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: Not that I am aware of

RESTRICTIONS ON INTERVIEWS WITH MEMBERS OF THE CONGRESS WORKING COMMITTEE

658. ***Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury:** Will the Honourable the Home Member please state

(a) if it is a fact that facilities have been recently afforded to Members of the Congress Working Committee to interview their relations, and if the gentlemen concerned have declined to avail themselves of the same, and

(b) what restrictions and conditions, if any, have been imposed for and at the interviews, and why?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I would invite attention to my reply to starred question No 311 on November 13th

Mr. Sri Prakasa: In view of the fact that in that reply, if I remember it aright, the Honourable Member said that the conditions and restrictions are the same as on ordinary security prisoners, may I know what exactly those restrictions and conditions are on these prisoners? The fact is the conditions and restrictions differ from province to province, and these gentlemen are confined in a particular way at a special place and under particular conditions

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: The restrictions imposed at Ahmednagar are those applicable in the Bombay Presidency. I do not know the points in respect of which my Honourable friend is interested, but in view of a later question I may explain that visitors are not searched Technically under the rules a prisoner is searched before and after a visit We told the Bombay Government that in this case we saw no necessity for such a search Five-

relatives are allowed at a time, the interview can last for one hour and may take place once a fortnight

Mr. Abdul Qayyum: May I know if Dr. Syed Mahmud was subjected to any humiliating restrictions in jail

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) That does not arise

Mr. Abdul Qayyum: The Honourable Member referred to my question on today's list and his answer practically covered that question. That is why I was provoked to put this supplementary question

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: There is no connection between the two questions at all

Mr. T. S. Avinashlingam Chettiar: May I know, Sir, why the Members of the Congress Working Committee refused to avail themselves of these concessions? Is it because of the humiliating conditions imposed?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: This was the subject of a previous question. The reason they gave for refusing was that they were deprived of this concession so long that they did not want it now. That is the only reason they gave

Mr. Abdul Qayyum: Is it a fact that they were forced to speak in a particular language and not in their own language or the language in which they wanted to speak?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: Not at all. That is not a fact

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Are they allowed to sit side by side and talk to each other, as is the case in the Madras Presidency?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: Probably, yes

RE-PUBLICATION OF NATIONAL HERALD

659. ***Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury:** Will the Honourable the Home Member please state

(a) if an application was received by Government from the Managing Director of the *National Herald* of Lucknow for permission to resume publication of the paper,

(b) have the Government of India actually granted the requisite permission and even allotted a quota of newsprint,

(c) if it is a fact that the communication conveying the news was stopped by the United Provinces Government who insisted on the reconsideration of the matter by the Government of India, who thereupon cancelled the previous permission,

(d) what exactly the considerations were that impelled Government to withhold permission finally,

(e) if it is a fact that the *National Herald* had suspended publication voluntarily in 1942, and that no orders were made against it by the Government of the United Provinces, and

(f) whether the Government will reconsider their decision in the matter?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: With your permission, I would reply to question Nos. 659 and 660 together

The questions should have been addressed to Honourable the Industries and Civil Supplies Member

PERMISSIONS TO NEWSPAPERS UNDER NEWSPAPER CONTROL ORDER

†660. ***Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury:** Will the Honourable the Home Member please state

(a) the number of newspapers not in existence or having suspended publication, before the Newspaper Control Order was promulgated, that have been allowed to start or re-appear after the said order,

(b) the number of papers who applied for the permission to start or re-appear, and to whom such permission was refused; and

(c) the reasons that led Government to decline to give permission in each case?

†For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 659.

Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall: Question No 661

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) Answers to questions 661 to 664 will be laid on the table, as these are in excess of the quota. The Honourable Member was not in the House when his other questions were called

PREPARATION OF ELECTORAL ROLLS OF THE CENTRAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

†661. **Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall:** Will the Honourable the Home Member please state

(a) if arrangements have been made for the preparation of voters list for election to the Central Assembly, and

(b) if any representation has been made to the Chief Commissioner, Delhi, for this by the residents of Delhi Shahdara?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: The question should have been addressed to the Honourable the Law Member

PRICE OF VOTERS LIST PUBLISHED BY DELHI SHAHDARA MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE

†662. **Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall:** Will the Honourable the Home Member please state

(a) if the voters list published by the Delhi Shahdara Municipal Committee in 4 volumes have been priced at Rs 87 for 581 pages, and

(b) if the control over the price of the books is applicable to the voter's list?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: The question should have been addressed to the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies

MEMBERS OF CENTRAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY UNDER DETENTION

†663. **Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall:** Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state

(a) the number of the Members of the Central Assembly still under detention in different Provinces,

(b) if it is not a fact that all the Members of Central Assembly who have been detained in Bihar have been released except Babu Ram Narain Singh,

(c) if it is a fact that his case has been reviewed under the new ordinance and recommended by the Tribunal for release,

(d) if it is a fact that Babu Ram Narain Singh applied for maintenance of his family members, has the Government decided not to release him,

(e) if it is a fact that some persons in a better financial position than Babu Ram Narain Singh have been given allowance, and

(f) if the Government propose, in the interest of the just and uniform administration of the Defence of India Act and the Rules made thereunder in different Provinces, to call for periodical reports about the political detenus who are detained in Provinces and make a comparative review of their cases?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) and (b) In the time available it has been found impossible to obtain the required information

(c) to (c) These matters are the concern of the Provincial Government

(f) No

REPRESENTATION BY VIDYA RATAN, A DETENU OF DELHI SHAHDARA

†664. **Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall:** Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state

(a) if Vidya Ratan, a political detenu of Delhi Shahdara is under a restriction not to leave the limits of Delhi Shahdara,

(b) if he made any representation to the Chief Commissioner, Delhi that either he should be allowed to earn his livelihood or he should be given a maintenance allowance, and

(c) the decision of the Government on his representation?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) and (b) Yes

(c) I understand that the Deputy Commissioner, Delhi, who made the restrictive order has rejected the application. The person in question has resided in Shahdara for many years and his statement that he is unable to earn his livelihood there does not seem reasonable

†Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner having exhausted his quota.

INEQUALITY IN EMOLUMENTS OF INDIAN AND EUROPEAN KING'S COMMISSIONED OFFICERS

665. *Mr. Frank R. Anthony: Will the War Secretary be pleased to state
(a) the total emoluments of a European King's Commissioned Officer, of non-Asiatic domicile of the following ranks—(i) Lieutenant, (ii) Captain, (iii) Major,

(b) the total emoluments of an Indian King's Commissioned Officer in the same corresponding ranks,

(c) the additional allowances that are to be paid to European King's Commissioned Officers owing to the recent increases granted to them, and

(d) how far the authorities have proceeded in the matter of doing away with the present serious inequality in the emoluments as between Indian and European King's Commissioned Officers?

Mr. O. M. Trivedi: (a) and (b) I lay a statement on the table

(c) I presume the Honourable Member refers to increases of pay recently sanctioned for British Armed Forces. The question of applying those increases to the Indian Armed Forces is under consideration by the Government of India.

(d) Indian and European King's Commissioned Officers draw exactly the same rates of pay and allowances.

Statement

Total emoluments of a European KCO and an Indian KCO

Rank	Single	Married living with family consisting of—			
		Wife only	Wife and one child	Wife and two children	
		Rs p m	Rs p m	Rs p m	Rs p m
Lieut		460	535	625	665
Captain		590	665	725	765
Major		965	1,015	1,055	1,095

In addition, European and Indian K. O Os receive Indian Army Allowance as follows

Rank	Regulars		E C Os	
	Rs p m		Rs p m	
Lieut			75	40
Captain			100	50
Major			200	100

Mr. Frank R. Anthony: With regard to part (d), apart from the overseas allowance, is it not a fact that the total emoluments of a European King's Commissioned Officer are very much more. So far as a Lieutenant is concerned, the total emoluments are about 150 more, a Captain about 250 more and a Major 350 more?

Mr. O. M. Trivedi: If my Honourable friend is referring to Indian King's Commissioned officers, there is, as I have already stated, no difference between their pay and that of European King's Commissioned officers. If, on the other hand, he is thinking of Indian Commissioned officers, I would refer him to my answer to Mr. Lalchand Navahria's question earlier this morning.

Mr. K. O. Neogy: Is Lord Munster's visit going to lead to a further increase in the allowances of British soldiers?

Mr. O. M. Trivedi: No, Sir.

Sardar Sant Singh: Can the Honourable Member give us some idea of the percentage between the salaries of Indian Commissioned officers and those of the King's Commissioned Officers?

Mr. O. M. Trivedi: I have placed several statements on this subject on the table of the House. The Honourable Member can work out those percentages. I am afraid I cannot work them out just now.

Mr. Frank R. Anthony: We have been told that this matter is actively engaging the attention of the War Department. Unless we are embarked on

another 30 years' war, this disparity is not likely to be done away with before the War ends. May I know how long the consideration stage will last?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: The consideration stage will be over soon.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: The Honourable Member knows that Lord Munster has come here to look into the welfare of European troops. Will he also look into the conditions of the Indian troops?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: I have already answered this question in the House a few days ago. I said that Lord Munster's visit was with the object of looking into the welfare arrangements of both British and Indian troops.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Is he actually doing that?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: Yes, Sir.

Mr. Frank R. Anthony: May I know the exact nature of the additional allowances to be paid to Europeans in the ranks of Lieutenant, Captain and Major?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: I am sorry I do not carry all that information in my head.

ALLAHABAD HIGH COURT JUDGMENT *RE* EXEMPTION OF INCOME-TAX ON MUNICIPAL TAXES PAID

666. *Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan: Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state

(a) if he has seen the judgment of the Allahabad High Court on a reference by the Income-tax Appellate Tribunal in the case of Messrs Gappumal Kanhaivalal of Allahabad,

(b) if it is a fact that the High Court has ruled that the amounts paid as municipal taxes are exempt from income-tax,

(c) if it is a fact that the Income-tax Officers do not regard themselves bound by the judgment, and

(d) if the Government propose circularising Income-tax Officers on the subject?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) Yes

(b) Yes, the amounts paid as house-tax and water-tax under the United Provinces Municipalities Act, 1916, have been held to be allowable deductions in computing the income from property under Section 9 of the Income-tax Act

(c) and (d) In view of the conflicting decisions on this point pronounced by the Madras and Bombay High Courts on the one hand and the Allahabad High Court on the other, it is proposed to take the point in appeal to the Privy Council for an authoritative ruling.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: What will be the Government's procedure in this matter during the period that the appeal takes to be finally disposed of?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: As I understand the position, any assessee who objects to the disallowance can lodge an appeal and his claim will be kept alive during the pendency of this litigation.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: Why should not this appeal be taken to the Federal Court instead of to the Privy Council?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Because under the existing constitution, the appeal lies to the Privy Council, I understand.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Have the Government filed the appeal?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I am not sure exactly what stage it is but we do intend to appeal to the Privy Council.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Will it be necessary for the assessee to apply in each case in order to keep their claims pending? Is it not a fact that if this procedure is followed, the United Provinces Income-Tax Officers may be inundated with thousands of petitions in this behalf, as almost every assessee in a town is subject to a municipal tax? If the Honourable Member will be pleased to instruct the U P Income-tax officers to follow the decision of the Allahabad High Court, I think the procedure would be simplified.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I shall look into the question of how these claims can be kept alive without the necessity of every assessee lodging a formal appeal.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Thank you

REVISION OF THE INCOME-TAX MANUAL

667. *Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan: Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state:

- (a) if the Income-tax manual now available is not out of date;
- (b) if he proposes to publish an up to date manual; and
- (c) when the public may expect the new manual to be available?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) No The current edition, which was published in 1940, is being kept up-to-date by corrections which are issued periodically

(b) Yes, arrangements are in hand to bring out a new edition

(c) Every endeavour is being made to publish the new edition quickly but I am afraid that owing to pressure of other urgent work in the Press it will be some time before the new edition can be issued

Mr. Sri Prakasa: The Honourable Member said that the 1940 Manual is being kept up to date by corrections How is it possible for us to keep our own copies up to date?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I imagine that these correction slips must also be available in the shops or depots from which the publication itself can be obtained

Sir F. E. James: Is my Honourable friend aware that these correction slips are available only in the issue of the official Gazette?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I shall see whether anything can be done about that; it may be extremely difficult

Mr. E. L. C. Gwillt: Can the Honourable Member give us any indication as to when the Manual is likely to be ready?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I am afraid I cannot say.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: In view of the fact that there is no paper control on the Crown, will the Honourable Member expedite the publication of this Manual?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: There is a considerable measure of self-control

DETENTION OF MAULANA MUNIRUZZAMAN

†668. *Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kasmi: Will the Honourable the Home Member please state

(a) if it is or it is not a fact that Maulana Muniruzzaman, President of Jammut-ul-Ulma of the Province of Bengal, has been arrested under the orders of the Central Government,

(b) if it is or it is not a fact that the said gentleman is very weak and is of a very advanced age,

(c) under what offences he has been arrested and where he is detained,

(d) if he is to be prosecuted for some offence; if so, which, or he is to be detained without trial,

(e) whether in view of his advanced age and weak health the Government will consider the advisability of releasing him at an early date, if he is not to be prosecuted of any offence?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) Yes

(b) He is between 60 and 70 years of age and is suffering from a weak heart

(c) He is detained in the Lahore Central Jail under Ordinance III of 1944.

(d) The whole matter is under consideration and I regret that I can give no further information with respect to it at present

(e) If it is decided not to prosecute him, his case will be kept under review in the ordinary way

PAUCITY OF MUSLIMS IN DELHI RATIONING DEPARTMENT

†669. *Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kasmi: Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to furnish the following information in respect of Rationing Department Delhi Province —

(a) if it is a fact that the representation of Muslim Community is very inadequate in different grades and is not in accordance with the Communal proportion fixed by Government. If so, why?

†Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner being absent

(b) Whether it is a fact that in the matter of filling up vacancies from lower to higher grades, the promotion of officers and other members of staff is made in almost all cases by selection and not by seniority and the principle enunciated by Government to fill in not less than $\frac{2}{3}$ vacancies by seniority and $\frac{1}{3}$ by selection according to merit is ignored and that in allowing promotions the claims of senior Muslims are ignored, and

(c) if it is a fact that a good number of posts have been filled in by persons who are not residents of Delhi Province but belong to the Province of the Punjab, if so, whether sufficient number of men, possessing the qualifications required for efficient discharge of the duties and responsibilities attached to the posts, held by outsiders, is not available among the *bona fide* residents of Delhi, if so, whether necessary steps were taken to secure the service of capable residents of Delhi and whether the reasons for employment of outsiders, were recorded in writing?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: The question should have been addressed to the Honourable Member for Food.

HIGHER PRICES OF RATIONED ARTICLES IN DELHI

†670. ***Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kasmi:** Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state if it is a fact that the prices of rationed articles in Delhi are higher than those prevailing in other large cities like Calcutta etc.? If so, why?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: The question should have been addressed to the Honourable Member for Food

SUPPLY OF DEFECTIVE STANDARD CLOTH BY CERTAIN MILLS

671. ***Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya:** Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state.

(a) if his attention has been drawn to a Press note issued by the Department of Industries and Civil Supplies on July 24, 1944, informing the public that the following Mills had been found to have supplied defective cloth — (i) The Bir'a Mills, Limited, Delhi, (ii) The Sutlej Cotton Mills, Okara; (iii) Jiyajee Rao Cotton Mills, Gwalior, (iv) Vizoyluxmi Cotton Mills, Cambay, (v) The Dayalbagh Spinning and Weaving Mills, Ahrntsar and (vi) The Raynagar Mills, Ahmedabad, if so, the steps taken by the Government of India to stop such dealers from continuing supply of such defective standard cloth and if the manufacturers and dealers of such cloth were punished under Defence of India Rules, if so, the punishment administered; and if Government hauled these Mill Managers and Directors before any Government Tribunals; if so, when and where;

(b) the defects of the Standard Cloth manufactured by the above Mills; and to lay on the table the report of the investigation made in this connection, the profits made by the manufacturing mills out of this defective supply, the loss it entailed on poor consumers for whom this sort of Standard Cloth was manufactured,

(c) the explanation offered by the offending Mills; and assurances given for future supply, and

(d) if it is a fact that a rebate was demanded of the offending Mills; and if this rebate was decided by the Home Department or by the Industries and Civil Supplies Department, which of the Departments was competent or had the Departments decided jointly?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: The question should have been addressed to the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies.

DEALERS, SUPPLIERS, ETC., CONTRAVENING DEFENCE OF INDIA RULES.

672. ***Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya:** Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state if he be pleased to lay on the table the whole list of big and small dealers, suppliers, manufacturers who, having acted in

†Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner being absent.

contravention of the Defence of India Rules, had been prosecuted and punished in open court of law during 1943 up to 31st October?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: The question should have been addressed to the Department of Industries and Civil Supplies

REALISATIONS FROM SALE OF NATIONAL SAVINGS CERTIFICATES

673. *Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount realised from the sale of National Savings Certificates provincewise;

(b) whether it is a fact that forcible deduction from the price of sugarcane to be paid to cultivators in Bihar and United Provinces was made last year; if so, the amount so deducted per every maund of sugarcane; and

(c) whether the same system of deductions will again be followed this year; and at what rate?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Baisman: (a) I lay a statement on the table.

(b) Yes. In view of the fact that the price of Sugar Cane was increased by two annas, factories in United Provinces and Bihar were required to deduct out of the price two annas per maund of cane and to make payment to the Cane grower in respect of this deduction in the form of National Savings Stamps, National Savings Certificates or an account in the Defence Savings Bank as an anti-inflationary measure.

(c) Yes. The rate of deduction proposed in Bihar is the same as that of last year. In the case of United Provinces it is three annas per maund, except in some areas where it is two annas per maund

Statement showing Sales of National Savings Certificates in 1943-44 and in 1944-45 (up to September, 1944)

(In thousands of Rupees)

Provinces	Sales of National Saving Certificates (October 1943—March 1944)	Sales of National Savings Certificates (April 1944—September 1944)	Grand Total (October 1943—September 1944)
Bombay	69.00	83.34	1,52.34
Bengal	23.61	20.40	44.01
Punjab	52.25	1,08.10	1,60.35
United Provinces	47.97	32.58	80.55
Madras	1,74.50	58.39	2,32.89
Sind	18.31	26.10	44.41
Bihar	2,44.04	52.53	2,96.57
C. P. & Berar	1,33.61	9.43	1,43.04
Delhi	8.20	43.30	51.50
N. W. F. Province	7.72	6.29	14.01
Orissa	8.63	8.15	16.78
Beluchistan	6.78	2.85	9.63
Assam	18.06	10.02	28.08
Ajmer-Merwara	1.05	2.05	3.10
Coorg	30	54	84
Indian States	50.78	65.88	1,16.66
Total	8,64.91	5,29.95	13,94.86

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait: With regard to part (b) of the question, may I ask under what provision of law has this been done?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Baisman:—The order is issued under sub-rule (8)(a) of Rule 20 of the United Provinces Sugar Factories Control Rules and similarly in the case of Bihar, I suppose.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: Can the Honourable Member tell us whether the instructions emanated from the Honourable Member or his Department?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Baisman: Both the Central and the Provincial Governments have been co-operating in trying to increase to the maximum the immobilisation of surplus purchasing power.

Sardar Sant Singh: May I ask the Honourable Member if any commission is paid to those who are making an effort to get these National Savings Certificates sold?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: That does not arise in this particular case, because this is not a case where agents are selling the Certificates, but it is a case of deductions made by the factory which purchases the cane.

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Salt: Can the Honourable Member tell me whether a separate account for this is kept and what is the amount so far collected under this head?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: A separate account is kept and the statement which I have laid on the table shows the amount in each province.

Mr. Satya Narayan Sinha: Is the Honourable Member aware that this deduction of two annas has become very unpopular with the agriculturists and it is going to affect the growing of sugarcane crop next year?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: My information does not bear that out.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What are the reasons that have persuaded the Honourable Member and the Provincial Governments concerned to extract these two annas in the form of compulsory Savings Certificates when only two annas increment is being granted to the peasants concerned on their cane?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: My Honourable friend is a Professor of Economics and I do not think he requires any assistance from me to understand what are the reasons for a step of this kind.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Are we to understand that the Honourable Member has imposed any such condition upon all those officers to whom dearness allowance and war allowances are being given? Does he propose that in their case also every pie that is being given to them as an additional war allowance shall be taken away from them again as Savings Certificates?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Government endeavour to intensify savings in the case of all classes of their servants.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is there any other class from whom 100 per cent of the additional sum that is being given to them as a matter of war allowance is being taken away by the Government?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: It is not a question of 100 per cent. In the case of the increase which has recently, I believe, been sanctioned, the extent of the compulsory saving is restricted to this year's increase.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) Next question

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS ACQUISITION OF LANDS FOR EXTENSION OF GREATER PATNA

874. *Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state

(a) whether Government of India has made any contribution towards the acquisition of lands for the extension of Greater Patna, if so, how much,

(b) whether the Government of India has issued or proposes to issue to Bihar Government instructions regarding the acquisition of lands for Greater Patna in view of the panic prevailing in the minds of Muslim and non-Muslim residents particularly of the Phulwar Area over forcible acquisition of religious buildings and old burial places; and

(c) whether Government will be pleased to issue instructions to Bihar Government to exercise caution in acquiring lands used for the maintenance of religious places and grave-yards and also in the acquisition of residential buildings of the inhabitants so as not to make the mosques and temples deserted for want of worshippers?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman (a) No.

(b) and (c). No. The acquisition of land for provincial purposes is a matter within the executive authority of the Province.

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Salt: Has my Honourable friend any information with regard to the acquisition of land in Greater Patna and particularly with regard to the Phulwari Area?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I regret to say I have not, because, strictly speaking, this question should have been addressed to another Department.

FORCIBLE SEARCH OF DOCTOR SAYED MAHMUD BEFORE RELEASE.

675. *Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Will the Honourable the Home Member please state.

(a) whether he has seen the news item in *Hindustan Times*, dated the 5th November, 1944, dealing with incidents which happened before the release of Doctor Sayed Mahmud;

(b) whether Doctor Sayed Mahmud was forcibly searched before his release;

(c) whether the search took place in spite of his protests,

(d) the reasons which necessitated the search,

(e) whether the refusal of the Members of the Congress Working Committee to avail themselves of the facilities for interviewing their relatives, was due to the forcible search of Doctor Mahmud, and

(f) whether Government is prepared to give an assurance that men of eminence and position will not be subjected to such forcible searches before their release?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) Yes

(b) and (c). No.

(d), (e) and (f). Do not arise.

CONVICTION OF MR. C KRISHNA NAIR

676. *Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Will the Honourable the Home Member please state:

(a) whether Mr. C Krishna Nair, a Congress worker of Narela Gandhi Ashram (referred to at page 33 of the official publication "Congress Responsibility for Disturbances, 1942-43") was sentenced to two years rigorous imprisonment,

(b) what the charge against him was;

(c) whether he appealed to the Lahore High Court and with what result; and

(d) if Mr. Nair was acquitted, what amends Government propose to make for an accusation which stands unproved?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) Yes

(b) He was charged under clause (b) of sub-rule (1) of rule 35 of the Defence of India Rules with taking part in an attack on Gheora railway station.

(c) Yes he was acquitted

(d) Government do not propose to take any action in the matter it is open to Mr. Nair to take any action to which he is entitled under the law

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Is it not a fact that the conviction of Mr. Krishna Nair was used as one of the reasons for proving that the Congressmen were taking part in sabotage and violent movements?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: The statement that he was convicted was included in the official publication "Congress Responsibility for Disturbances".

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: May I know whether this publication was prepared before the gentleman in question was convicted by the trial court?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: No

Sardar Sant Singh: May I know from the Honourable Member if he is prepared to withdraw that statement from this official book after his acquittal from the High Court?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: If there is a demand for another edition, it will be corrected

Sardar Sant Singh: What responsibility does the Government of India feel in the matter? Having put in an inaccurate fact in a book published by the Government of India, is it not the responsibility of the Government to withdraw *it ipso facto*?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: The statement was made before his acquittal.

Sardar Sant Singh: But if the High Court found it to be incorrect, what is the responsibility of the Central Government in that respect? Are you bound by the ruling of the High Court or not?

(No answer.)

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Will the Honourable Member issue a correction slip?

(No answer.)

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Sir, I want an answer to this question. If the Income-tax Manual can be made up-to-date by a correction slip, surely we are also entitled to have this correction.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) The Honourable Member has heard the question and the Chair cannot compel him to reply.

CONTINUED POSSESSION OF GOVERNMENT OVER CERTAIN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS

877. *Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Will the Honourable the Home Member please state

(a) the reasons for keeping in their continued possession public institutions devoted to constructive and social activities, like the Gandhi Charitable Village Hospital, Badarpur, Delhi, Ram Tal Ashram, Mehrauli, Delhi and Gandhi Ashram, Narela, Delhi.

(b) if it is a fact that nothing incriminating was found at any of the above mentioned places at the time of search carried on by the Police prior to their seizure by the Government in August 1942.

(c) if Government are aware that their continued possession over the Gandhi Charitable Village Hospital, Badarpur has deprived hundreds of poor villagers living in the adjoining area of free medical help, which the hospital rendered to them, and

(d) if it is a fact that the Managing Committee of the Hospital which used to run it prior to its seizure by the Government as well as the residents of Badarpur and other adjoining areas have made repeated representations to the Chief Commissioner of Delhi, requesting to release the Hospital from their possession. If so, what action has been or is proposed to be taken to meet the wishes of the popular committee and the villagers?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) The institutions referred to are believed to have been used as centres of unlawful activity and even now there is no guarantee that, if restored, they would not be so used for the same purpose.

(b) Yes. No incriminating papers were found at any of these institutions.

(c) and (d) The Delhi administration has from the beginning shown its readiness to allow the medical work of the Badarpur institute to be continued under a suitable arrangement, and if the local residents have been deprived of any facilities, the blame rests on the Managing Committee. The District Board, it may be added, have recently decided to acquire the sites at Badarpur for a rural dispensary and have asked Government's assistance in this connection.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: May I know what is the basis for the information that these institutions were being used for subversive activities when nothing incriminating was found?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: The Honourable Member is aware of the occurrences of two years ago.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Was any Member connected with this institution even prosecuted or convicted?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I have no information.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: May I know if this hospital which was forcibly seized is now allowed to function?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: The Delhi Administration has from the beginning shown its readiness to allow the medical work of the Institute to be continued under suitable arrangement. The District Board is putting up a dispensary there.

Mr. Abdul Qayyum: Is this institution at present allowed to function? There may be many things in the minds of the Delhi Administration. Is this hospital allowed to render medical aid to the residents of the locality?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I have answered that point

Mr. Abdul Qayyum: What is the answer? The answer was that some sort of thing is being considered

Sardar Sant Singh: Is the Delhi Administration too weak to punish anybody who commits an offence under the ordinary law of the land and hence they are keeping this Institution in their continued possession in order to prevent the offence being committed?

Prof. N. G. Ranga: May I know what is the suitable arrangement referred to by the Honourable Member under which the Institution will be allowed to continue medical work? What was the arrangement suggested to the hospital managing committee? Did they refuse to accede to that arrangement?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I want notice

Mr. T. S. Avinashlingam Chettiar: How long do the Government propose to have this Institution in their possession? When do they propose to hand it over to the legitimate owners?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I can make no guess

Mr. Sri Prakasa: What is the exact reason which makes the Honourable Member think that this Institution would be used for subversive activities if it is returned to those who are entitled to it?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: The Honourable Member knows as well as I do, in fact more than I do about it

Mr. Abdul Qayyum: What sort of subversive activity is possible in an hospital which is rendering medical aid to the people?

(No answer)

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Sir, I cannot understand the insinuation of the Honourable Member that I knew more about certain things than he does. What exactly is the Honourable Member referring to? I should like him to clear the point.

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: About congress politics

Mr. Sri Prakasa: The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie has been a very old friend of mine. I have known him for over 24 years and he has known me as well, here we are quits. I do not want to be nasty to him. If he thinks that I know anything about the supposed subversive activities of these Institutions even the names of which I hear for the first time in the course of this question, then I think it is up to him to put himself right with me. This is the least I expect of him.

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I will admit that my Honourable friend is not one of the most dangerous members of the Congress

Mr. B. Das: On a point of order. Can a Member of Government insinuate, as the Honourable the Home Member has done, that the congress Party knows about certain things regarding subversive activity more than the Government?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) He referred to the Congress policy, that the Congress members are likely to know more about it than the Government.

Mr. B. Das: Then why not bring charges against them on the floor of this House or in a court of law?

HEALTH OF DETENUS L. DESHBANDHU GUPTA AND L. ONKAR NATH.

878. **Mr. Abdul Qayyum:** (a) Is the Honourable the Home Member aware that at least two of the Delhi detenus lodged in the Central Jail, Lahore, viz., L. Deshbandhu Gupta and L. Onkar Nath have for a long time been suffering from a number of ailments as a result of which their health has been badly shattered; and

(b) apart from the periodical review due under the detention and restrictions ordinance, will the Government consider the desirability of an early release on medical grounds of these and such others of the Delhi detenus who are not keeping good health at Ferozepore Camp Jail?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) Lala Onkar Nath has been released. Lala Deshbandhu Gupta is suffering from peripheral neuritis for which he is being treated by physicians of his own choice.

(b) The health of a security prisoner is one of the considerations kept in mind in reviewing a case which, as I have explained before in this House, is continuous, and not undertaken at fixed intervals only.

Mr. Abdul Qayyum: May I know when the case of Lala Deshbandhu Gupta was last reviewed?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: The process is continuous

Mr. Abdul Qayyum: It is rather a vague answer May I know the point of time at which his case was last reviewed?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: The process is continuous

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: Is the process continuing at the present moment?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: At this very movement, we are discussing it

Mr. Abdul Qayyum: May I know if there is any time limit to the continuation of this process?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: No time limit

Prof. N. G. Banga: How long will this idiotic attitude of Home Department continue this process of review?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) Order, order

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Is the Honourable Member considering the desirability of releasing Lala Deshbandhu Gupta?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: Yes, we are continuously considering it.

RELEASED DELHI DETENUS

879. ***Mr. Abdul Qayyum:** (a) Will the Honourable the Home Member please give the number of the Delhi detenues released since 1st September, 1943, and also state as to how many of them were subjected to restrictions of some sort or the other?

(b) Is it a fact that one of the restrictions usually imposed on most of the Delhi detenues released since 1st September, 1943, required them to report themselves at the police stations?

(c) Is it also a fact that among those who were subjected to this restriction are persons belonging to such respectable professions as, Medical, Journalism and Law, etc?

(d) Will the Government of India advise the Delhi Administrations to adopt in future a policy of unconditional release as pursued in several other provinces, as also to withdraw all the existing restrictions?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) Eighty-four former Delhi detenues have been released since the 1st September, 1943. Against five of these, orders have been passed excluding them from the Delhi Province, and 53 have been subject to restrictions of various kinds

(b) In 29 of the cases mentioned, the orders include a direction to report at a police station

(c) The persons mentioned in the reply to part (b) include two pleaders, one journalist and five practitioners of indigenous systems of medicine

(d) The question of necessity of maintaining these orders is being taken up with the Delhi Administration

Mr. Abdul Qayyum: With reference to part (a) what is the nature of the restriction which has been imposed on these detenues who have been released?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I have given all the information I have in answer to the question

PAPER TONNAGE INVOLVED IN PRINTING COPIES OF INDIAN INFORMATION

880. ***Mr. E. L. C. Gwilt:** Will the Honourable Member for Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state

(a) the average print order in number of copies of "Indian Information" for the 104 consecutive issues up to and including that of the 30th of August 1944,

(b) the total tonnage of paper which these involve, and
 (c) whether, in view of the fact that as so much of the matter appearing in "Indian Information" has already been published, though perhaps in an abridged form, in the Press, the volume of paper intended for use in the future in the printing of "Indian Information" might be made better use of in some other direction?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House in due course

(c) Government consider that good use is being made of the paper in the printing of the *Indian Information*. The *Indian Information* is a valuable reference record for the use of newspaper offices, libraries, persons, institutions, etc., whose role is to inform the public. To effect economy in paper, the size of the publication was reduced to one half from January 1944. I may add that *Indian Information* continues to be printed on super calendered paper purchased in India. It has been decided to print on maximum of newsprint, but arrangements have not yet been made for the import of newsprint of the right quality. I should also add that after this matter was discussed, I think last year, in this House, I went into the question as regards the necessity of continuing this paper and we found that we received a large number of appreciations of the *Indian Information* from different sources.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I know whether the Government of India propose to give free copies of this valuable paper to the Members of the Legislature so that they may have this as reference record?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: We shall be delighted to supply if a demand like this is made

Prof. N. G. Ranga: We would like to have them

Mr. N. M. Joshi: I make my demand on the floor of the House

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: The answer has been given on the floor of the House

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Is the Honourable Member aware that the *Indian Information* gives no information at all?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: Then, I take it there is no demand for this paper from the Members of the Legislature

Prof. N. G. Ranga: We want it so that we can see how best to improve it

Mr. E. L. O. Gwilt: Are there adequate supplies of this super-calendered paper available for propaganda in countries overseas? I appreciate the necessity for propaganda and I feel that the paper that is used for this can be better used for overseas propaganda?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: A large number of copies of *Indian Information* is also sent to countries overseas. We have gone into the question very deeply after this question was raised by Sir Frederick James last year and we have come to the conclusion that it is serving a very useful purpose in India and outside India

Prof. N. G. Ranga: That is all the more reason why we should like to have copies of the *Indian Information*.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) The Honourable Member has already promised

AUTHORISED AGENTS FOR SALE OF NATIONAL SAVINGS CERTIFICATES IN GOVERNMENT OF INDIA OFFICES

†661. ***Khan Bahadur Mian Ghulam Kadir Muhammad Shahban:** Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state:

(a) whether Government servants have also undertaken the task of authorised agents to sell National Savings Certificates in the Government of India Secretariat Offices in New Delhi; if so, will he please lay on the table a list showing the number of the Authorised Agents so appointed pertaining to the Departments of the Home, Finance, Commerce, Education, Health and Lands, Legislative, Legislative Assembly, External Affairs and Labour of the Government of India

†Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner being absent.

and the amounts of the National Savings Certificates sold by each individual agent; and

(b) the steps Government have taken or propose to take to suitably reward those officials, if not, why?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) Yes I lay on the table a statement as desired by the Honourable Member

(b) Authorised Agents will be entitled to a commission of 2½ per cent on the face value of the National Savings Certificates sold by them

Statement showing the number of Government servants appointed as Authorised Agents pertaining to the Home, Finance, Commerce, Education, Health and Lands, Legislative, Legislative Assembly, External Affairs and Labour Departments of the Government of India and the amounts of National Savings Certificates sold by each of them

Name of Departments	Number of Authorised Agents appointed.	Value of National Savings Certificates sold by each.
(1) Home Department	1	
(2) Finance Department	4	N/A
(3) External Affairs Department	3	The agents have only recently been appointed
(4) Labour Department	1	
(5) Commerce Department	N/A	
(6) Education, Health and Lands Department	N/A	
(7) Legislative Department	N/A	
(8) Legislative Assembly Department	N/A	
Total	9	

WASTE OF BOATS SEIZED UNDER DENIAL POLICY IN BENGAL

†682. ***Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta:** Will the Honourable the Defence Member be pleased to state if it is a fact

(a) that a very large number of country boats snatched away from the fishermen under denial policy and requisitioned in 1942, were allowed to remain uncared for in "Daudkandi Boats Preservation Centre" in the district of Tippera,

(b) that the broken boats have recently been sold for Rs 1,000 to a middleman who sold the same to Dhakeswari Cotton Mills for Rs 6,000 to be used only as fuel,

(c) that a similar waste of boats has occurred in many other centres; and

(d) that this denial policy has been a cause of ruin to a very large population of fishermen who lost their only means of livelihood and are now absolutely stranded?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: (a), (b) and (c) Enquiries are being made from the Government of Bengal

(d) The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the answer given to part (e) of Starred question No 733 answered by me on 31st March 1944

MUSLIM GAZETTED OFFICERS IN THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT

†683. ***Sir Abdul Halim Ghannawi:** Will the Honourable the Home Member please state

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to an article published in the "Dawn" of the 25th October, 1944, regarding the percentage of Muslim officials in the Central Government;

(b) the total number of gazetted posts of (i) Secretaries, (ii) Joint Secretaries, (iii) Deputy Secretaries, (iv) Under Secretaries, (v) Assistant Secretaries, (vi) Additional Secretaries and (vii) Officers on Special Duty;

(c) how many Muslims are working in each of the categories mentioned in (b) above and what the percentage of Muslims therein is;

†Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner being absent.

(d) how many Hindus and Europeans respectively are working in each of the above-mentioned categories; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government or proposed to be taken to make up the deficiency in the communal ratio, if any?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) Government have seen the article referred to

(b) to (d). A statement which gives substantially the information required by the Honourable Member is laid on the table

(e) Appointments to the Secretariat posts of the categories referred to are made by selection and not on a communal basis. It is not proposed to alter that system.

Statement showing the Communal distribution of the posts of Secretary, Additional Secretary, Joint Secretary, Deputy Secretary, Under Secretary, Assistant Secretary and Officers on special duty in the Departments of Government of India (Secretariat only) according to the Government of India Directory (July 1944)

	Europeans Anglo- Indians	Hindus	Muslims	Others	Total
Secretary	9	5	2*	1	17
Additional Secretary	4			1	5
Joint Secretary	7	9	2		18
Deputy Secretary	13	22	4	2	41
Under Secretary	15	17	10	3	45
Assistant Secretary	12	32	5	2	51
Officer on Special Duty †	7	2	1	1	11
Total	67	87	24	10	188

* Including the Secretary, Legislative Assembly Department

† Only Officers described as such have been included

INDIAN TRADE PROFITS OF U K C C.

684. *Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state

(a) the profits made by U K C C out of its trade with India, and

(b) whether they have been charged Income-tax, Super-tax and Excess Profits tax on the profits?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply given by me to Starred question No 820 asked by Mr T T. Krishnamachari on the 18th November 1944

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: But the figures of profits made by them were not stated

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: In that answer I stated that the information is not available but that if and when it is furnished to the Income-Tax Department, its disclosure will be forbidden by the Income-Tax Act

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Apart from profits, have they been charged with income-tax at all?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I also mentioned on that occasion that the income-tax and excess profits assessments of the Corporation for the relevant years are in hand.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Have they shown any returns by which they are liable to excess profits tax?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I said the assessments are in hand. I cannot give any further information.

BAN ON ENTRY INTO INDIA OF INDIAN OPINION OF DURBAN

685. *Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: Will the Honourable the Home Member please state:

(a) if the Government of India have imposed any ban on the entry into India of "Indian Opinion" of Durban, edited by Mr. Manilal Gandhi;

- (b) if so, what the reasons for the ban are,
- (c) whether the South African Government has imposed any ban on the circulation of "Indian Opinion" in South Africa;
- (d) whether the Government of India consulted the High Commissioner for India in South Africa before banning this paper, and
- (e) whether the Government of India are aware of the deep dissatisfaction among Indians in India and South Africa at their arbitrary action against a paper of long standing which has tried to serve the Indian community in South Africa and keep this country informed of what is happening in Natal and other parts of the Union?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) I have no information but enquiries are being made.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Government are not aware of this

ACTIVITIES IN INDIA OF THE WATCH TOWER BIBLE AND TRACT SOCIETY

686. *Mr. K. O. Neogy: Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state

(a) the general attitude of Government towards the activities in India of the Christian movement or body known as the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society or Jehovah's witnesses, for how many years approximately these activities have continued in India,

(b) if it is a fact that there is at present a ban on the importation into, and publication in India of all books, pamphlets etc., of this organisation. If so, when the ban was first imposed and on what grounds,

(c) if any scrutiny was held on behalf of Government, at any time before and after the said ban was imposed, into the individual publication, of this organisation for the purpose of finding out whether their contents were objectionable from any point of view, and

(d) if it is a fact that the literature banned includes publications containing purely religious discourses?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) The general attitude of Government is now one of watchfulness

(b) It has now been decided to remove the ban

(c) Yes.

(d) All the publications of the Society were banned

Mr. K. O. Neogy: In part (a) of the question I wanted to know something about the activities of this organisation in India and how long these activities have continued. I am afraid no reply has been given to that

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: The question was about the attitude of Government, it is one of watchfulness

Mr. K. O. Neogy: But what are the activities like?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: If the Honourable Member wants information on that he may put down a question

Mr. K. O. Neogy: With regard to Government's decision to lift the ban on this organisation, is it proposed to compensate it for the trouble and loss that has been caused to it by Government's action in the past?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: No, Sir, the trouble was mutual

Mr. K. O. Neogy: Is it not a fact that members of this organisation have been sentenced to pay fines in different courts on the technical ground of possession of some of this proscribed literature on which the ban is now proposed to be lifted? And do Government propose to direct a refund of these amounts that have been paid as fines?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: No, Sir.

Prof N. G. Ranga: Why not?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: Because the Home Department never interferes with the judiciary.

ACTIVITIES IN INDIA OF THE WATCH TOWER BIBLE AND TRACT SOCIETY.

687. *Mr. K. C. Neogy: Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether the organisation known as the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society, or Jehovah's witnesses, has ever been known to be guilty in this country of any subversive activities,

(b) if it is a fact that five men and one lady were sentenced to imprisonment in different places in India for possessing books dealing with the Bible, and that several persons were ordered to leave their usual places of residence, and that in October last one of the Christian Workers after being imprisoned without any trial was later released and given 24 hours to leave Madras,

(c) if it is a fact while in July 1944, this organisation was permitted to import the authorised version of the Bible used by it in its work, a small consignment of the New Testament entitled *Diaglott*, giving word for word a translation of the Greek original into English and containing references to the other translations, was refused entry,

(d) if it is a fact that the "*Diaglott*" is merely a reprint of an old work by B. Wilson who never belonged to the Watch Tower Bible Society,

(e) if it is a fact that copies of this work were destroyed under the authority of Police of Bombay or Karachi,

(f) if it is a fact that one Mr. Skinner who is the representative of the organisation in India printed a leaflet last year containing only extracts from Bible texts and was sentenced to pay a fine of Rs 100 for printing it?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) Yes

(b) I have not got complete details, but a small number of persons, including one lady, have been imprisoned for infringing the ban

(c) The answer to both the parts is 'Yes'

(d) *Diaglott* is a publication issued by the International Bible Students' Association whose literature is also prohibited by the order of 30th November, 1942.

(e) I have no information

(f) Mr. Skinner was fined for printing the Society's literature in contravention of Government's order of 30th November, 1942

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Do Government admit that their previous order in regard to this matter was wrong?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: No, Sir

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Then why are they withdrawing it now?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: Because circumstances have changed

Mr. Sri Prakasa: In what respects?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: In many respects

MAL-TREATMENT OF INFERIOR RAILWAY SERVANTS BY DELHI RAILWAY POLICE

688. *Mr. G. Rangiah Naidu: Will the Honourable the Home Member please state

(a) if it is a fact that the Delhi Railway Police have been exercising third degree methods on the inferior Railway servants of the North Western Railway, if not, what the fact is,

(b) if it is a fact that on or about the 1st November, 1944, the Delhi Railway Police have exercised third degree methods on one Retiring Room bearer (Krishan) of Delhi junction station by having inflicted canes by a constable in the Police station, if not, what the fact is,

(c) if it is a fact that on or about the 5th November, 1944, the Delhi Railway Police have exercised third degree methods on waiting room's Aya (Martha) of Delhi junction station and who was released from those methods only after payment of rupees three as illegal gratification, if not, what the fact is; and

(d) what protection to Government Railway servants is provided for against the third degree methods of the Police force; if no protection has been provided, the reasons therefor?

†Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner being absent.

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: The Railway Police in Delhi are, as matter of administrative convenience, treated as part of the Punjab Police. The Punjab Government have been asked for the information required and a reply will be laid on the table in due course.

RAID ON A GAMBLING DEN IN DELHI

†689. ***Mr. G. Rangiah Naidu:** Will the Honourable the Home Member please state the particulars of the raid on a gambling den in Delhi from where 82 persons were arrested before Diwali festival?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I am afraid that I can't as the case is still *sub judice*.

REMOVAL OF PROSTITUTES FROM GARSTIN BASTION ROAD, DELHI

†690. ***Mr. G. Rangiah Naidu:** Will the Honourable the Home Member please state the action taken to remove the residences of immoral women from the main thoroughfare (Garstin Bastion Road) connecting Old Delhi with New Delhi (from Lahori Gate to Ajmeri Gate), if no action has been taken the reasons therefor?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: Certain areas in the jurisdiction of the Delhi Municipal Committee have been declared as prohibited areas under Article 152 of the Punjab Municipal Act 1911, but Garstin Bastion Road is not one of those. No measures have been, or are proposed to be taken to remove the residences of prostitutes therefrom.

MURDERS ON GARSTIN BASTION ROAD, DELHI

†691. ***Mr. G. Rangiah Naidu:** Will the Honourable the Home Member please state the number of murders committed either on the Garstin Bastion Road (from Lahori Gate to Ajmeri Gate), Delhi or by the residents of that Road during the preceding five years, and if it is a fact that to pass through that road after dusk is very unsafe due to the nature of the persons inhabiting that locality, if not, what the fact is?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: Three No

SECURITY AND CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE PRISONERS

692. ***Mr. Sri Prakasa:** Will the Honourable the Home Member please state

- (a) if there are two classes of prisoners in Indian jails to-day, called security prisoners and civil disobedience movement prisoners,
- (b) if so, what the difference in the status and treatment of them is;
- (c) the categories of such prisoners in the Provincial jails who are directly under the Government of India,
- (d) if there is any statutory obligation of the Government to make provisions for the families of persons under indefinite imprisonment without charge or trial,
- (e) the allowances, if any, that are being given to the families of the various security and civil disobedience movement prisoners, and
- (f) how many families are in receipt of such allowances?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) No.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

(d) No

(e) and (f) The principles which we have recommended and which have been adopted by most Provinces, are that allowances should be granted not only in cases of absolute necessity but also in cases where the detention has deprived the family of a legitimate source of income. Out of about 50 cases of persons detained by orders of the Central Government there are about fifteen cases where families are in receipt of allowances from Government. There is no fixed scale for these allowances which are determined after consideration of the circumstances of each case. So far as Chief Commissioners Provinces are concerned, the detailed information required is being collected and will be laid on the table in due course.

†Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner being absent.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: With reference to part (c), may I know what relief these families have in the provinces even though they come under the terms of the Honourable Member's answer and are entitled to allowances according to him but are being refused these allowances by the Provincial Governments?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: Presumably they have no relief; it is entirely an act of grace.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Can the Honourable Member interfere in such cases, if they are brought to his notice, and take the matter up with the Provincial Governments?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I am afraid not.

Mr. T. S. Avinashlingam Chettiar: What is the maximum and minimum amounts paid by the Central Government to the families of the fifteen people detained under their orders?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I have no information as to the actual amounts paid.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Is this payment absolutely a matter of grace? If so, is their indefinite detention also a matter of grace?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: Yes.

INTERMENT OF SHRIMATI SATYAVATI DEVI OF DELHI

892. ***Mr. Sri Prakasa:** Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state:

(a) if it is a fact that Shrimati Satyawati Devi of Delhi was released from jail on grounds of health and is now interned at the Sabbar Sanatorium in the Simla Hills;

(b) the restrictions now imposed upon her and the state of her health, and

(c) whether the Government are considering the desirability of releasing her or permitting her to come back to her home in Delhi?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) Yes. She is interned under orders of the Punjab Government.

(b) So far as the Central Government is concerned, the only restriction imposed is that she should not return to Delhi Province without the permission of the Chief Commissioner. I have no information about her state of health.

(c) The question of releasing her from internment is for the Punjab Government to decide. The question of allowing her to return to Delhi does not arise so long as the internment order continues.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Is it not a fact that she was actually arrested in Delhi? Am I to understand that that arrest was at the instance of the Punjab Government and carried out by the Delhi authorities?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I have no information on that.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable Member make inquiries because she belongs to Delhi and is thus under his protection?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: If the Honourable Member will put down a question as to what he wants to know, I will give him the answer.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Does not this lady belong to Delhi and was she not actually arrested here? Am I to understand that that arrest was made at the instance of the Punjab Government?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I have no information at all; that was not the question asked.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is any allowance being paid to this lady?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: Again I have no information.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will Government consider the advisability of giving her a family allowance in view of the fact that she was a resident of Delhi and is now forced under orders of Government to live in the Punjab?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: If she comes under these principles we will consider it.

(b) WRITTEN ANSWERS

DETENTION OF DR. LOHIA

694. *Mr. Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable the Home Member please state:

(a) if it is a fact that Doctor Ram Manohar Lohia was arrested in Bombay in May, 1944, and is now kept at an unknown place and if his warrant were issued by the Government of India or the Government of Bombay,

(b) under what law he was arrested and why his place of confinement is kept a secret,

(c) if his father Mr. Hiralal Lohia, of 120, Coltar Street, Calcutta, has applied to Government for an interview with his only son; if so, what, if any, reply has been sent to him,

(d) why no interviews are permitted to Mr. Ram Manohar Lohia even with the members of his family, and

(e) what the category under which Doctor Lohia is classed in prison is, and what the class or division according to which he is treated as a prisoner is?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I would refer the Honourable Member to my answers to starred questions Nos. 469, 476, and 482 on the 16th November.

SEIZURE OF GRAM SEVA MANDAL AND KHADI ASHRAM OF HARMARA (AJMER).

695. *Mr. Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable the Home Member please state

(a) if the Gram Seva Mandal and the Khadi Ashram of Harmara (Ajmer) were declared unlawful or their premises notified under the Criminal Law Amendment or any other Act,

(b) if so, when and by whom they were so notified;

(c) if it is a fact that the goods of the institution were seized and sold; if so, under what law the action was taken,

(d) if Government has received any representation regarding those proceedings and whether they have also been informed that goods of private individuals lying on the premises have been seized and sold along with the goods of the institutions,

(e) whether Government will enquire into the facts and if it is found that action has been taken by the authorities against the provisions of the law, whether Government will compensate these institutions for the losses suffered,

(f) did the police seize papers from the premises of these institutions belonging to Harijan Samiti, Mehtar Panchayat, Tonga Union, etc., if so, why they did so and what they did with these papers,

(g) whether all these papers have been destroyed, and

(h) if the authorities received any representation from Mr. Balkrishna Garg, Secretary of the institutions, regarding these papers, and, if so, what reply was sent to him?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) No

(b) Does not arise

(c) Government are not aware that any goods of these alleged institutions were seized and sold.

(d) to (h) Government received a copy of a representation made by one Balkrishna Garg to the Chief Commissioner, Ajmer-Merwara. On Enquiry, Government were informed that the representation arose out of the action taken under sections 17 A and 17 B Criminal Law Amendment Act against the Khadi Vidyalaya, Harmara. As section 17 B provides a legal remedy for anyone aggrieved by such action, Government are not prepared to undertake any independent inquiry.

LANGUAGE OF INCOME-TAX NOTICE (FORM B)

696. *Mr. Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state:

(a) if his attention has been drawn to the language of Form B, a notice under Section 23(2) of the Income Tax Act, 1942, saying "In order that I may satisfy myself whether the return made by you is correct and complete, I hereby, require you to attend",

(b) if this language has his approval, and whether it does not suggest that the Income Tax Officer is already suspicious of the correctness of the return by the assessee,

(c) whether Government would consider the desirability of making the language less irksome, and

(d) if such notices are served on all Income Tax payees, including the highest officers of the State, and whether they are also required to attend the Income Tax Office, in person or by representation with the requisite evidence, is required in the notice? If not, will Government take steps to make the procedure similar for all income tax payees?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) I have seen the form of notice referred to by the Honourable Member

(b) The form has my approval since it accords with the wording of section 23 (2) of the Act, as amended by the House in 1939. The reply to the latter part is in the negative

(c) Government do not consider that the language in the existing form is irksome

(d) No, but I have no reason to believe that such notices are not issued in all cases without discrimination where the provisions of section 23 (2) are attracted. The manner of compliance with the terms of the notice is in all cases left to the assessee. The last part of the question does not therefore arise

EXPENDITURE ON RELIGIOUS PROGRAMMES OF BROADCASTING STATIONS

697. ***Sardar Sant Singh:** Will the Honourable Member for Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state as to what amounts have been spent during the current financial year on religious programmes such as *Kathas*, *Naats*, *Shabads* and speeches, etc., connected with (i) Hindus, (ii) Muslims, and (iii) Sikhs, by different broadcasting stations under him?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: The All India Radio does not classify its accounts on communal lines and the collection of the information asked for would therefore involve an amount of time and labour that would not be justifiable in war time

GOVERNMENT INFORMATION RE GANDHI-JINNAH TALKS

698. ***Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya:** Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state if Government have got all information in detail about the Gandhi-Jinnah talks apart from what had appeared in the newspapers? If so, will the Honourable Member lay the same on the table?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: Government have no information apart from what has appeared in the newspapers

RESTORATION OF OLD STANDARD TIME

699. ***Mr. K. S. Gupta:** Will the Honourable the Home Member please consider the desirability of reverting to the old standard timings as advancing of clock by one hour has caused a great inconvenience and hardship to the public in general and Indian Government employees in particular, as the position of war is now most favourable? If not what are the reasons and whether, apart from official point of view, he would take into consideration the public views expressed in the past or call for the same now and then take the decision in the matter?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the reply given to a similar question No. 464 put by Mr. Badri Dutt Pande on the 16th November, 1944. In arriving at their decision, Government took into account any inconvenience that might be caused to the public

ARRESTS OF CONGRESS COMMITTEE MEMBERS IN DELHI IN AUGUST, 1942

700. *Seth Sheodass Daga: (a) Will the Honourable the Home Member please state if it is a fact that in Delhi on 9th and 10th August 1942, two Members of the All-India Congress Committee, four Members of the Provincial Congress Committee, Delhi, and about four ordinary members of the Congress were arrested under Defence of India Act, Rule 26 before the issue of the notification in the official Gazette, dated 11th August, 1942, declaring the Delhi Provincial Congress Committee to be an unlawful association?

(b) If the answer to (a) be in the affirmative, will he please state if before the time of the arrest any active support from the persons referred to in (a) to the All-India Congress Committee Resolution of 8th August, 1942, was recorded or was in existence?

(c) Is it a fact that some of the persons referred to in part (a) have now been released and various restrictions under sub-section (1) of Section (3) of the Restriction and Detention Ordinance 1944 have been imposed on them?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) Two members of the All India Congress Committee, five members of the Delhi Provincial Congress Committee and six ordinary Congress men were arrested in Delhi on the 9th and 10th August 1942 on the basis of orders issued for their detention under Defence Rule 26

(The notification to which the Honourable Member appears to refer—Delhi notification No F 6/4/42-S B—was issued on the 9th August 1942, not the 11th August 1942.)

(b) The detention orders were made, on the basis of the past conduct of the persons concerned, with a view to preventing them from acting in a manner prejudicial to the public safety and the maintenance of public order

(c) Yes

COMMUNAL PERCENTAGES FOR RECRUITMENT TO PROVINCIAL ACCOUNTANT GENERAL'S OFFICES

701. *Sardar Sant Singh: Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state

(a) the percentage of representation fixed for different communities for purposes of recruitment in different Provincial Accountant General's offices,

(b) when these percentages were fixed and on what basis,

(c) will he please place a copy of the different orders on the subjects on the table of the House, and

(d) what special representation is fixed for the Sikhs in the Punjab where they predominate more than anywhere in India?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Basman: (a), (b) and (c) The percentages fixed for the various communities in Audit and Accounts offices are given in the statements attached to the Auditor General's letters No 581-NGE/603-33, dated the 18th April 1935 and No 1276-NGE/368-43, dated the 10th July 1944, copies of which, together with the relevant extracts of the orders, are placed on the table of the House. These percentages have been fixed mainly with reference to the population of minority communities in each area and the recruitment rules of the Provincial Government concerned, but so as to retain for India as a whole the percentages prescribed under the Home Department Resolution of 1934. The reservations for members of the Scheduled Castes have effect from the 11th August 1943, and those for other communities from the 4th July 1934

(d) Sikhs are included in the category "Other Minority Communities", and no special representation is fixed for them, except in the cadre of Divisional Accountants in the Punjab, in which 20 per cent of the vacancies, which is the percentage fixed by the Government of the Punjab in respect of their Provincial Services, are reserved for Sikhs

Copy of letter No 1276-NGB/368-43, dated the 10th July, 1944, from the Auditor General of India, to all Accountants General and Comptrollers, the Director of Railway Accounts and the Director of Audit, Defence Services

SUBJECT—Reservation of vacancies for Scheduled Castes

I have the honour to state that under paragraph 4(2) of the Government of India, Home Department Resolution No 23/5/42-Fsts (S), dated the 11th August, 1943 the Auditor General has with the concurrence of the Government of India, fixed the percentages shown in the annexed statement for recruitment of Scheduled Caste candidates to the non-gazetted establishment of the Audit and Accounts offices, in which recruitment is made by local areas

2 As recruitment of staff in your department is made centrally, 8½ per cent of the vacancies for direct recruitment should be reserved for Scheduled Caste candidates in your department

Statement of percentages fixed for Scheduled Castes in Audit and Accounts offices under the Auditor General

Province	Percentage fixed for Scheduled Castes	Province	Percentage fixed for Scheduled Castes
Delhi*	8½	Bombay	4½
Punjab	4½	Central Provinces	12½
United Provinces	12½	Azamgarh	4½
Bihar	8½	Orissa	10
Bengal	8½	Sind	2½
Madras	10	North West Frontier Province	2½

*Note—For this purpose the offices of the Auditor General, the Accountant General Posts and Telegraphs and the Director of Railway Accounts should be considered to be located in Delhi Province

Copy of letter No 581 NGB/603-33, dated 19th April 1935 from the Auditor General of India, to all Civil Accountants General, etc

SUBJECT—Reservation of vacancies for Muslims and other minor communities

I have the honour to state that under Rule 8 of the Government of India, Home Department, Resolution No 1 14/17 B/33, dated the 4th July, 1934 the Auditor General has, with the concurrence of the Government of India fixed the percentages shown in the annexed statement for recruitment of Muslims and other minor communities in the non-gazetted establishment of the Audit and Accounts Offices in which recruitment is made by local areas. The Depressed and Backward classes do not fall under the category of "Other minorities" and members of those classes should be recruited against the quota of Hindus (Christian aboriginals should be treated as Indian Christian and no reservation for non-Christian aboriginals has been considered necessary till the local Government find it necessary to make any rules regarding the representation of such people in the Provincial services)

(1) To Accountant General, Bombay and Orissa only

(The recruitment in the Postal Accounts Offices is made on a local basis and it is not therefore necessary to secure the total all India percentages in those offices taken separately from other offices of the Audit Department. You should adopt the percentages now fixed for the local areas in which your offices are situated. This disposes of your letter No P 2585/A-10-34 dated the 12th March 1935)

(2) To Accountant General Posts and Telegraphs only

2 If and when any material change in the percentages now prescribed becomes necessary in view of any rules issued by the local Government or due to other circumstances the matter should be referred to the Auditor General for his orders

3 These percentages should be observed by you strictly in respect of all vacancies filled up after the 4th July 1934 irrespective of the dates from which such vacancies existed and irrespective of the position as regards recruitment of members of the minor communities which existed in your office/your office and your subordinate offices prior to that date. Further subsidiary instructions on certain points of detail will be issued shortly by the Government of India

*For the Accountant General, Posts and Telegraphs and Director of Railway Accounts only.

4 The Government servants who were employed in an officiating or temporary capacity before the issue of the Government of India Resolution of 4th July 1934 may after confirmation be allowed to resume their original position in the gradation list above their juniors, if any, who may have to be confirmed earlier under the operation of these orders

(This disposes of your D O to Mr Badenoch, No T/1100, dated the 28th February, 1935)

(1) To Accountant General, Central Provinces only

*Statement of percentages fixed for minor communities in Audit and Accounts Offices
under the Auditor General in India*

Province	Percentages fixed for Muslims	Percentages fixed for other minor communities
Delhi	33 1/3	8 1/3
Bengal	40	8 1/3*
Assam	33	8 1/3
Bihar	10	8 1/3
Central Provinces	5	7
United Provinces	15	8 1/3
Sind	50	8 1/3
Bombay	8 1/3	8 1/3
Madras	8 1/3	8 1/3
Punjab	40	10
North West Frontier Province	60	10†
	<hr/> 27 39	<hr/> 8 16

* Including Budhists

† vide this office letter No T1215 NGE/bs 33, dated the 16th September 1933

Extract from the Government of India Home Department Resolution No F 14/17 B/35 Establishments, dated the 4th July 1934, regarding communal representation in service

Section IV—Rules for services recruited locally

8 In the case of all services to which recruitment is made by local acts and not on an all India basis, e.g. subordinate posts in the Railways, Posts and Telegraphs Department, Customs Service, Income tax Department etc. the general rules prescribed above will apply subject to the following modifications—

(1) the total reservation for India as a whole of 25 per cent for Muslims and of 84 per cent for other minorities will be obtained by fixing a percentage for each Railway or local area or circle having regard to the population ratio of Muslims and other minority communities in the area and the rules for recruitment adopted by the local Government of the area concerned,

(2) in the case of the Railways and Posts and Telegraphs Department and Customs Service in which the Anglo Indian and Domestic European community is at present principally employed special provisions described in the next paragraph are required in order to give effect to the policy stated in paragraph 2 above

**INADEQUATE REPRESENTATION OF SIKHS IN INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
DEPARTMENT**

702. *Sardar Sant Singh: (a) With reference to the answer to starred question No 169 given on the 23rd February, 1941, will the Honourable Member for Information and Broadcasting please state the basis on which 11 Muslims out of 33 appointments were appointed in the Technical Assistant and Programme Assistant's grades, if so, how does he justify giving more than 25 per cent of the appointments to the Muslims?

(b) Will he please state the number of Sikh applicants who applied for each of these appointments, the number of candidates called for interview and the number of the successful candidates who have since been appointed?

(c) Is the Honourable Member aware that the representation given to Sikhs in his own Department and particularly in the All India Radio is inadequate and all appointments reserved for other minorities are either filled up by members of the minority communities other than the Sikhs or the Muslims? If not, will he please place a statement showing the appointments of Sikhs made so far in the A I R carrying a pay more than Rs 100

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: (a) The "33 appointments" referred to by the Honourable Member related to the posts of Programme Assistant only, and out of these 11 were of Muslims. The appointments were made on the basis of merit. It is open to the minority communities to obtain on grounds of merit more than the percentage of vacancies reserved for them. In regard

to the appointments made in the cadre of Technical Assistants, the Honourable Member will observe from the reply given by me, to which he has referred, that the number of Muslims and non-Muslims appointed were 10 and 86 respectively

(b) For the posts of Programme Assistant, 23 Sikhs applied, one was called for interview and was selected. 18 Sikhs applied for the posts of Technical Assistant, 7 were called for interview and 2 were appointed.

(c) The Sikhs are very well represented in the Information and Broadcasting Department Secretariat, as about 7 per cent of the posts are held by them. In All India Radio there are 30 Sikhs out of a total of 980 posts. I may explain that, under the Communal Representation Rules, no separate reservation is made for Sikhs out of the percentage of 8½ reserved for "Other minority communities". A list giving the information asked for in the last part of this part of the question is laid on the table of the House.

List of Sikhs employed in All India Radio on posts carrying a pay over Rs. 100 p.m.

- 1 Mr. A. C. Ramchandani Assistant Chief Engineer
- 2 Mr. H. Indar Singh Assistant News Editor
- 3 Mr. Iqbal Singh Programme Executive
- 4 Mr. T. S. Khosla Programme Assistant
- 5 Mr. K. S. Duggal Programme Assistant
- 6 Mr. Joginder Singh Technical Assistant
- 7 Mr. Pannik Singh Technical Assistant
- 8 Mr. H. B. Singh Stereo-Recorder
- 9 Mr. T. S. Singh Stenographer
- 10 Mr. G. S. Bhatia Assistant

ANGLO-INDIANS, ETC IN THE W. A. C. (I)

703. *Mr. Frank R. Anthony: (a) Will the War Secretary be pleased to state the present number of Anglo-Indians, Dominated Europeans and Europeans employed in the W. A. C. (I)?

(b) How many senior Civil Assistants are drawn from the Anglo-Indian, Dominated European and European communities respectively?

(c) Is it a fact that the Commandants of the four Recruit Training Schools are Europeans?

(d) Is it a fact that Junior Civil Assistants from overseas are now holding appointments which should normally be held by personnel of the W. A. C. (I)?

(e) Is it a fact that these Junior Civil Assistants are also replacing permanent civilian women employees and are being given a much higher basic wage? If so, why?

(f) Is the War Secretary aware of the increasing tendency to import personnel to fill appointments which should be given to members of the W. A. C. (I)? If so, why?

(g) Is it a fact that a large number of members of the W. A. A. F. are being brought out to India? Will these persons compete with the Air Force Wing of the W. A. C. (I) personnel for appointments in India?

(h) Is it not a fact that the imported personnel who are doing the work hitherto done by members of the W. A. C. (I) are getting a much higher basic pay than the W. A. C. (I) personnel? If so, why?

(i) Whether Government will consider paying the same basic wage to the member of the W. A. C. (I) as is at present being given to A. T. S. personnel and Junior Civil Assistants?

(j) How many civilian women employees, who have been holding responsible posts for years, have been replaced by the imported personnel? If the latter are performing the same duties as the former, what was the necessity or reason for importing these women Civilian Assistants and giving them higher pay?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: (a) British—2,230, Indian—3,252, Anglo-Indian—3,937.

(b) British—49, Indian—1, Anglo-Indian—1

(c) Yes, Sir

(d) and (e) No, Sir. Eight Junior Civil Assistants from the War Office are replacing male Staff Officers who are thus released for combatant duties. Their

wages are higher than those of our permanent civilian women employees, but their duties are quite different.

(i) It is true that it is becoming necessary to import members of the British Women's Services because neither officers nor other ranks of the W A C (I) are available in sufficient numbers to fill the appointments open to them.

(g) As regards the first part, a contingent of the Women's Auxiliary Air Force has arrived in India for service in South East Asia. As regards the second part there is no separate Air Force Wing of the W A C (I) although a number of W A C (I) personnel are employed with the Air Forces. The W A A F S will not compete with W A C (I) for the reasons given in reply to part (f) above.

(h) and (i) Imported personnel are not doing work hitherto done by the W A C (I). The rates of pay of the British Women's Services were fixed in the U K by His Majesty's Government. The rates of pay of the W A C (I) are based on the pay of the Auxiliary Territorial Service in the U K. The whole question of the pay of Women's Services in Defence Headquarters, India is under consideration by Government.

(j) No civilian woman employee has been replaced by imported personnel. The second part of the question does not, therefore arise.

PENSION OF DAUGHTERS IN THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL, POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS, ETC

704. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state

(a) if it is a fact that Daughters in the offices of the Director-General, Posts and Telegraphs, the Auditor General and other attached offices are entitled to half pension not exceeding Rs 20 per mensem.

(b) if it is also a fact that sons of the offices of the Director-General, Posts and Telegraphs, the Auditor General and other local offices whose maximum scale of pay is Rs 16 are entitled to half pension not exceeding Rs 8, per mensem.

(c) if it is a fact that the maximum scale of pay admissible to sons in the offices of the Accountant-General, Central Revenues, the Deputy Accountant-General, Posts and Telegraphs and the Chief Controller of Supply Accounts etc is Rs 16 per mensem, and they earn half pension not exceeding Rs 8 according to the pension rules applicable to them, if so, what the reason is for treating the daughters in these offices whose maximum pay varies from Rs 30 to Rs 40 differently with the result that they are only entitled to a pension not exceeding Rs 8 per mensem irrespective of their maximum pay, and

(d) if Government to take immediate steps to issue orders entitling the daughters of the above mentioned offices to half pension not exceeding Rs 20 per mensem as in the case of other offices where such pension is admissible?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a), (b) (c) and (d). The attention of the Honourable Member is drawn to the reply given by me to Starred Question No 102 on the 25th February 1943. There has been no change in the position.

MAHATMA GANDHI'S STATEMENT OF MASS CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE

705. *Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan: Will the Honourable the Home Member please state

(a) if he has seen the public statement of Mahatma Gandhi to the effect that mass civil disobedience is now out of question, and

(b) if he has also seen copies of the letters written by Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, President of the Indian National Congress, to the former Viceroy, Lord Linlithgow, and now published in the Press by Doctor Saïed Mahmud, denying the various charges on behalf of the Members of the Working Committee and himself, made by the Government in their pamphlet on Congress responsibility for the 1942 incidents?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) The reference is presumably to Mr. Gandhi's "Hints for workers on the constructive programme." In it he wrote

"Just as military training is necessary for armed revolt training in the constructive effort is equally necessary for civil resistance" and later "It would be different if there was mass civil disobedience. But that is out of the question for the time being at any rate."

(b) Yes

DETENTION OF MR JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN

706. *Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan: Will the Honourable the Home Member please state

(a) the law under which Sri Jai Prakash Narayan was arrested and is detained in prison,

(b) the place of his confinement and the facilities, if any, given to him for correspondence, interviews, books, if any, and newspapers provided to him

(c) if he is a prisoner of the Government of India or of the Provincial Government and if of the latter then of which Provincial Government

(d) if he is to be brought to trial, if so, under what charges

(e) if any counsel has been engaged for him by Government and if he has been given the right and the necessary facilities to engage his own counsel, and

(f) if, in case the counsel has been given or engaged every opportunity is afforded to him to interview his counsel and give all instructions as necessary?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) He was arrested under Defence of India Rule 129 and is detained under Ordinance III of 1944

(c) He is a prisoner of the Government of India

(b), (d), (e) and (f) I would refer the Honourable Member to my answers to starred questions Nos 198 on the 8th November and 408 and 475 on the 10th November

RE-ORGANIZATION OF OFFICERS' CADRE OF CANTONMENTS AND LANDS SECTION OF DEFENCE DEPARTMENT

707. *Mr N. M. Joshi: Will the Honourable the Defence Member be pleased to state

(a) if the Government of India have under consideration a scheme for the re-organisation of the officers' cadre of the Cantonments and Lands Section of the Defence Department, if so what it is

(b) the position and prospects they propose to give to the present executive officers, and

(c) whether the present executive officers have asked for improvement in their salaries and prospects; if so, what Government propose to do to satisfy their demands?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: (a) and (b) Yes. A scheme for the amalgamation of the Lands Branch of the Cantonments Department and the Cantonment Executive Officers Service and the revision of pay of Executive Officers was under consideration for some time. It was eventually decided that, as we do not know what the post-war conditions affecting Cantonment Services are likely to be a wholesale re-organisation of the Department which such a scheme would entail, and a corresponding revision of the pay of Executive Officers cannot be undertaken during the war. For the period of the War however the pay of Grade II Executive Officers, i.e. the most junior officers of the cadre, has been revised from Rs. 150—7—200 E B —5—250 to Rs. 200—10—250, their pay being fixed in the latter scale with reference to the departmental service already rendered by them.

(c) Yes. Government has received representations from certain officers to this effect. It must however be borne in mind that owing to war conditions most of these officers are officiating in higher paid appointments than they normally would have and for the reasons I have already stated it is not at present possible to do more than we have done.

COMMUNAL PROPORTIONS IN THE ARMY

708. *Mr. K. S. Gupta: (a) Will the War Secretary please state the proportion of different communities in the Army (commissioned, non-commissioned, combatant and non-combatant, respectively) as it stood on the 1st of September 1944?

(b) What is the rough percentage of different communities in the Artillery, Infantry, Engineers, Signals, Motor Transport, Supply Medical and Ordnance?

(c) What total percentage each community form in the combatant and non-combatant ranks?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: The information required by the Honourable Member is not readily available. I will endeavour to collect such information as can be obtained without undue expenditure of time and labour and will lay it out on the table if there are no security objections to such information being divulged.

POLITICAL PRISONERS AND DETENUS IN JAILS OUTSIDE THEIR PROVINCE

709. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state

(a) whether there are any political prisoners and detenues who are being kept in jails of provinces other than their own, if so (i) how many they are, (ii) what provinces they belong to, and (iii) in what provinces and in what numbers they are being kept,

(b) the political parties to which they belong generally,

(c) whether their cases (if they are detenues) are also liable to be reviewed once in six months,

(d) if the reply to (c) is in the affirmative whether such reviews are being made by Central Government and with what results during the last year,

(e) if Government are aware that their health is being affected by reason of their being kept in provinces other than their own, and

(f) whether Government will be pleased to consider the advisability of re-transferring these detenues and other prisoners to their own provinces."

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) and (b) I regret that it is impossible to give detailed information but as far as I am aware there is no large body of Prisoners or detenues belonging to one Province and detained in another. As regards persons detained under the orders of the instance of the Central Government there are a few cases in which detenues have been transferred from their own Provinces for security reasons. (I am not prepared to give further details for the same reasons). There is also the case of the Members of the Congress Working Committee and the position in Delhi Province has already been explained in my reply to starred question No. 104 on 3rd November, 1944. I have no further details.

(c) Yes, of course, but, as I have explained before, the process of review is continuous and does not take place only at six monthly intervals.

(d) The Central Government reviews the cases of those detained by them. The number released in the last year was about 10.

(e) and (f) If there is any reason to believe that a Security Prisoner's health is suffering by being kept in a Province other than his own, his transfer to his own Province is, and will be, considered.

INDIAN STUDENTS STRANDED IN ENGLAND OWING TO NON-AVAILABILITY OF PASSAGE FACILITIES

710. *Mr. K. C. Neogy: Will the Honourable the Defence Member be pleased to state

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to a Reuter's message from London, dated August 26, 1944, that a large number of Indian students who completed their studies long ago are unable to return to India owing to non-availability of passage facilities,

(b) whether he is aware that a large number of these students have qualified as first-class engineers and technicians and that their return to India now would assist the war effort as well as the plans for post-war development.

(c) whether he would take any steps to urge the British Ministry of Transport to grant the students priority in allotment of passages, and

(d) whether the High Commissioner has been in communication with Government in this matter?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: (a) Yes, Sir

(b) Government is aware that there are some who have qualifications which would undoubtedly be useful

(c) Yes. Priorities are in fact allotted to Indian students, but the number is still very restricted owing to paucity of passenger accommodation.

(d) Government is in regular correspondence with both the Secretary of State and the High Commissioner on this subject, and everything possible is being done to expedite the return of Indian students and Indian nationals generally to this country.

DISSATISFACTION OVER PROCEDURE OF ASSESSING ARECA NUT CESS

711. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state if he is aware that

(a) the Malabar Areca nut producers and dealers are discontented with the procedure adopted by Government in assessing the Areca nut cess and in collecting it,

(b) the objections he has to lower the cess in proportion to the normal price of the nuts,

(c) if he is aware that usually 25 per cent. of the stock gets spoiled during the process of preservation and if so whether he is prepared to reduce the incidence of the cess to a corresponding degree or not,

(d) the objections he has to impose the cess in proportion to the weight of the kernel of the nut, that is, excluding the husk,

(e) if he is prepared to collect the cess from the wholesale dealers, and, if not, why not, and

(f) if he is prepared to order a departmental enquiry into the above matter and other grievances of the producers concerned as stated in their printed representation?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: The question presumably relates to the levy of excise duty on coconuts. If this is so, an enquiry of the kind suggested by the Honourable Member was set on foot some time ago and the material gathered by the enquiring officers is now being studied.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

IMPORT AND SALE OF GOLD

104. Mr T. S. Avinashlingam Chettier: Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state

(a) whether Government have imported gold since the beginning of 1944 and sold to the people of this country,

(b) how many million ounces have been so sold,

(c) at what price it was purchased and where?

(d) at what price it has been sold to the people of this country, and

(e) whether any profit has been made on these sales and to whom this profit has gone?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) Government have not imported or sold gold but sales have been made by the Reserve Bank of India on behalf of His Majesty's Government and the Government of the United States of America.

(b) I am not prepared to disclose the quantities sold.

(c) Government have no information as to where and at what price this gold was purchased by His Majesty's Government and the Government of the United States of America.

(d) It was sold from time to time at the prevailing market price.

(e) I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to the reply I gave to Mr T. T. Krishnamachari's starred question No 191 on the 8th November 1944.

CONCLUSIONS OF BRETTON WOODS CONFERENCE

105. Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state

- (a) the result of the Brettonwood Conference,
- (b) the conclusions of the Conference with reference to India, and
- (c) whether the conclusions of the Conference concerning India, are subject to the vote of the House?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a), (b) and (c) I would invite the Honourable Members attention to my reply to Starred Question No. 79 asked by Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad on the 3rd November, 1944.

CONDITIONS OF SERVICE, ETC., OF CIVILIAN GAZETTED OFFICERS, INDIAN ARMY ORDNANCE CORPS

106. Mr. G. Rangiah Naidu: Will the War Secretary please state the conditions of service, warrant of precedence, scale of pay, order of promotion, status, etc., of the Civilian Gazetted Officers, Indian Army Ordnance Corps?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: I am collecting the information and will lay it on the table in due course.

TREATMENT METED OUT TO CIVILIAN GAZETTED OFFICERS, INDIAN ARMY ORDNANCE CORPS

107. Mr. G. Rangiah Naidu: Will the War Secretary please state whether it is a fact that the Civilian Gazetted Officers, Indian Army Ordnance Corps, from time to time, complained to their Officers Commanding and also to the Inspecting Officers against the treatment given to them by the Military Commissioned Officers, if not, what the true fact is, and if the reply be in the affirmative the steps taken by the Central Government against the behaviour of Military Commissioned Officers and if no steps have been taken the reasons therefor?

REMOVALS OF CIVILIAN GAZETTED OFFICERS, INDIAN ARMY ORDNANCE CORPS

108. Mr. G. Rangiah Naidu: Will the War Secretary please state the number of the Civilian Gazetted Officers, Indian Army Ordnance Corps, removed from the Corps after being confined and during probationary period respectively and the periods served in probation?

CONFERENCES WITH ACCREDITED PRESS CORRESPONDENTS

109. Mr. G. Rangiah Naidu: Will the Honourable Member for Information and Broadcasting please state

- (a) the particulars of conferences and meetings held during the preceding six months between the officers of the Central Government and the Accredited Press Correspondents awarded category (A),
- (b) the number of these attended by each Accredited Press Correspondents awarded category (A),
- (c) the particulars of the subject matter supplied to the Accredited Press Correspondents awarded category (A), and
- (d) the newspapers in which the subject matter supplied to them was published, if not published, the reasons therefor?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: (a) Twenty-five Press Conferences were held during the preceding six months i.e. May to October 1944. The purpose for which these Press Conferences were held was fully explained at each of these Conferences and it would not be possible to give details of their proceedings now.

(b) No record is kept of the number of correspondents who attended these Conferences

(c) and (d) Government do not feel that the labour involved in the collection of the information asked for would be justified in war time

REQUEST FOR TRIAL OF STAFF OF SHAHDARA (DELHI) SAHARANPUR LIGHT RAILWAY

110. Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: Will the War Secretary please state

(a) if it is a fact that the United Provinces Government has requested the Central Government for the trial of the staff of the Shohdara (Delhi) Saharanpur Light Railway by the Special Tribunal, War Department if not what the fact is,

(b) if it is a fact that the Central Government is now arranging for their trial, if not, what the fact is, and

(c) if it is a fact that they are detained under the Defence of India Act Rules since November, 1942, in Meerut District Jail, if not, what the fact is?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: (a) The United Provinces Government did at one stage suggest the trial of the accused in the Shohdara (Delhi) Saharanpur Light Railway case by Special Tribunal. This suggestion was later withdrawn.

First part of (b), No, Sir

Second part of (b) and (c). The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the reply given on the instant to instant question No. 28.

CONSTITUTION OF SPECIAL POLICE ESTABLISHMENT AND THE SPECIAL TRIBUNAL BY WAR DEPARTMENT

111. Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: Will the War Secretary please state

(a) if it is a fact that the Special Police Establishment has been constituted by the War Department, if not, what the fact is, and

(b) if it is a fact that the Special Tribunal has been constituted by the War Department, if not, what the fact is?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: (a) and (b) The Special Police Establishment and the Special Tribunal have been constituted by the Central Government in the War Department under Ordinance Nos. XXII and XXIX of 1943.

COLLECTION OF WAR FUND FROM RAILWAY SERVANTS BY DELHI RAILWAY POLICE

112. Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: Will the Honourable the Home Member please state if it is a fact that the officials of the Government Railway Police, Delhi Sub-Division have been instructed by the Central Government to collect from Railway servants funds towards Viceroy's War Fund, if not what the fact is?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: No such instructions have been issued by the Central Government.

CONDITIONS GOVERNING GRANT OF OLD SCALE OF PAY

113. Mr. K. S. Gupta: Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state

(a) the conditions governing the grant of old scale of pay to a Government servant,

(b) if it can be given to a Government servant who does not hold any permanent appointment anywhere under the Government, if so, what conditions such a case should fulfil for the grant of old scale of pay, etc.,

(c) if a Government servant removed from service and re-employed or re-appointed after 15th July, 1934, is entitled to old scales of pay when his removal is not due to economy campaign, and

(d) if the answer to this question is also applicable to Railway servants holding civil posts under the Crown, if not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) and (b) Old scales of pay are admissible to all Government servants, whether permanent or temporary, who have been in continuous Government service since 15th July 1931 and who received no warning at the time of appointment that they would be given the new rates of pay.

(c) No

(d) Railway employees are in the same position in this matter as other Government servants

EXTENSION OF CERTAIN RELIEF TO RAILWAY SERVANTS AND STAFF OF DELHI MUNICIPALITY

114. Mr. G. Rangiah Naidu: Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state whether Finance Department Memoranda No. F 2(52)W/44 and No. F-44(8)W/44, dated the 25th September, 1944, and 21st July, 1944, respectively and Home Department Memorandum No. 196/48-Public (c), dated the 16th May, 1944 regarding the grant of relief to Government servants are made applicable to (i) Railway servants and (ii) staff of Delhi Municipality, both Gazetted and Non-Gazetted, if not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: None of the concessions applies to the staff of the Delhi Municipality, who are not under the administrative control of Government. The orders of the 25th September 1944 granting war allowance have been extended to Railway servants. The orders of the 21st July 1944 regarding conveyance allowance have also been extended to certain Railway servants in Delhi, but the orders of the 16th May 1944 granting a concession in respect of journeys performed for the purpose of leave for rest and recreation have not been extended to Railway servants, as these are already eligible for free passes and other travelling concessions.

ANNUAL INCOME AND EXPENDITURE AND STAFF OF CHAKRATA CANTONMENT BOARD

115. Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam: Will the Honourable the Defence Member be pleased to lay a statement on the table showing the Annual Income and Expenditure of the Chakrata Cantonment Board for the past two years, along with a list of staff employed by that Board, their designation and monthly pay?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: The information has been called for and a reply will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

CERTAIN EXPENDITURE FROM CHAKRATA CANTONMENT FUND

116. Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam: Will the Honourable the Defence Member be pleased to lay on the table the amounts spent from the Cantonment fund of the Chakrata Cantonment Board during the last two years on the following heads —

- (i) Maintenance of roads in Sadar Bazar area of the Chakrata Cantonment,
- (ii) Sanitation,
- (iii) Education,
- (iv) Constructions and repairs of public drains in Sadar Bazar Area?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: The information is being collected and a reply will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

STATEMENTS LAID ON THE TABLE

Information promised in reply to starred question No 6, asked by Sardar Mangal Singh on the 7th February, 1944

INDIAN EVACUEES EMPLOYED BY GOVERNMENT OR GIVEN MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCE

Statement showing the number of Evacuees employed by Government (Up to the end of January, 1944)

Names of the Provincial Governments and the Departments of the Government of India	Name of the country from which evacuated	Particulars of the evacuees employed
<i>Provincial Governments</i>		<i>Indians</i>
Madras	Burma . . .	17,710
Bombay	Burma . . .	59
Bengal	Burma . . .	684 Up to March, 1944
The United Provinces	Burma . . .	2,103
The Punjab	Burma . . .	64
Bihar	Burma . . .	50 Up to March, 1944
The C P & Berar	Burma . . .	12
Assam	Burma . . .	38
The N-W F P	Burma . . .	5
Orissa	Burma . . .	15
Sind	Burma . . .	9
Coorg	Burma . . .	Nil
Delli	Burma . . .	14
Ajmer Merwara	Burma . . .	Nil
Baluchistan	Burma . . .	Nil
Total		20,763
<i>Departments of the Government of India</i>		
1 Office of the National Defence Council	Burma	Nil
2 Secretariat of the Governor General (Public)	Burma	Nil
3 Secretariat of the Governor General (Reforms)	Burma	Nil
4 Home Department	Burma	8
5 Department of I & B	Burma	11
6 E. A. Department	Burma	Nil
7 Political Department	Burma	17
8 Finance Department	Burma	148 Up to March, 1944
9 Legislative Department	Burma	2
10 Commerce Department	Burma	7
11 Department of Industries and Civil Supplies	Burma	70
12 Department of Food	Burma	16
13 Department of Labour	Burma	816
14 E, H and L Department	Burma	25
15 Commonwealth Relations Department	Burma	35
16 Legislative Assembly Department	Burma	1
17 War Transport Department	Burma	117 Up to March, 1944
18 Post and Air Department	Burma	137
19 Railway Department	Burma	393
20 War Department	Burma	107 Up to April, 1944
21 Defence Department	Burma	2
22 Supply Department	Burma	581 Up to March, 1944
23 Military Finance	Burma	43 Up to March, 1944
Total		2,537
Under Provincial Governments		20,763
In the Departments of the Government of India		2,537
GRAND TOTAL		23,300

Statement showing the number of Indian Evacuees who are being given Maintenance Allowance by Government

Province or State	Number of Indians receiving assistance
1 Madras	37,867
2 Bombay	4,987
3 Bengal	51,000
4 United Provinces	4,000
5 Punjab	537
6 Bihar	95
7 Central Provinces	157
8 Assam	74
9 North-West Frontier Province	115
10 Orissa	7,111
11 Sindh	97
12 Ajmer Merwara	23
13 Baluchistan	<i>Nil</i>
14 Delhi	45
15 Coorg	<i>Nil</i>
16 Vaidya States (Munpur)	
17 Baroda	184
18 Central India State	2
19 Cochin	
20 Deccan and Kolhapur	<i>Nil</i>
21 Eastern States	<i>Nil</i>
22 Gwalior	<i>Nil</i>
23 Hyderabad	4
24 Kashmir	<i>Nil</i>
25 Madras States (Pudukkottai)	0
26 Mysore	2,411
27 Punjab States	<i>Nil</i>
28 Punjab Hill States	
29 Rajputana	2
30 Travancore	
31 Western India States	17
32 British India	
Total	1,09,031 or 1,10,000 roundly

Information promised in reply to parts (b) and (c) of unstarred question No 88 asked by Mr K C Neogy on the 1st March, 1944

BICYCLES IMPORTED INTO INDIA

(b) The desired information is furnished below

	£	s	d	R	p
I—Average ex-factory price of British bicycles for sale in U K	4	0	0	79	5 4
II—Average f.o.b. price of similar bicycles for export to India	4	7	0	59	0 0

NOTE—The small difference between the prices indicated against items I and II above is mainly due to cheaper fittings on cycles meant for export to India.

(c) The Government of India are satisfied that no element of dumping is involved in the importation of bicycles into India and the question of protecting the local manufacturer does not therefore arise.

Information promised in reply to part (i) of unstarred question No 89 asked by Mr Jamnadas M Mehta on the 2nd March, 1944

**MEMORIAL SUBMITTED BY THE GUJRAT TOBACCO MERCHANTS' ASSOCIATION,
NADIAD**

The reduction in the acreage under tobacco cultivation during 1943-44 as compared with the acreage in 1942-43 is estimated at about 18 per cent.

The causes of this reduction have been explained in the reply to part (h) of the question.

Information promised in reply to unsatisfied question No 126 asked by Hajee Choudhury Muhammad Ismail Khan on the 13th March, 1944

NON-PAYMENT OF OFFICIATING ALLOWANCE TO CERTAIN SPECIAL TICKET EXAMINERS ON NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

Special Ticket Examiners on the North Western Railway, who had elected the rates of pay of the old Travelling Ticket Examiners, were considered by the Administration to be ineligible for officiating pay when employed against higher posts outside the sanctioned cadre of such old Travelling Ticket Examiners. The matter has been reconsidered and it has been decided to permit the grant of officiating pay in such cases.

Information promised in reply to stated questions Nos 521 and 525 asked by Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani on the 20th March, 1941

ALLEGED BRIBE TO INCOME-TAX OFFICER, GAYA

Question No 524—(a) The answer to the first part of the question is in the affirmative, to the second part in the negative, and to the third part, in the affirmative.

(b) The answer to the first two parts of the question is in the affirmative and to the last part in the negative.

(c) Mr Lal was assured by the Commissioner of Income tax that no criminal action would be taken against him for bribing the Income tax Officer. This was under no particular law or rule but with a view to detect corruption if any existed in the Department. As regards the last part of the question Government have seen the judgment mentioned but consider that the circumstances of that case were quite different.

(d) The answer to the first part is in the negative. As regards the second part action under section 34 of the Income tax Act had become barred. The answer to the third part is that the assurance given by the Commissioner of Income tax was taken to cover all the offences admitted to have been committed by him. The last part of the question does not arise.

ALLEGED BRIBE TO INCOME-TAX OFFICER, GAYA

Question No 525—(a) The bribe is alleged to have been paid in consideration of the Income tax Officer admitting certain obsolescence expenditure. In view of Section 54 I T Act, the particulars regarding the claim in the Income tax return and the final assessment cannot be revealed. An appeal was filed but was not entertained as it was time-barred.

(b) The answer to the first part is in the affirmative. As regards the second part, this would be a matter for legal inference and Government cannot make definite statement one way or the other. The answer to the third part of the question is that the Commissioner has forwarded to Government copies of Mr Gurusahai Lal's statements.

(c) The answer to the first part of the question is in the affirmative and to the second part in the negative.

(d) The answer to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. As regards the second part although the letter was placed on the file relating to the departmental enquiry, it was not treated as evidence in the case against the Income tax Officer.

(e) No

(f) No

(g) No Government do not consider such enquiry necessary.

(h) No Government do not consider that there was any lapse on Mr Mukerjee's part as suggested.

(i) Mr Mukerjee's letter was dated at Dhanbad on 12th November 1941 and must have been received by the Commissioner a day or two later. As regards the second part of the question I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to my reply to the second part of clause (d) of his question. Mr Mukerjee was presumably not examined as a witness in regard to his letter as it was not treated as evidence.

Information promised in reply to part (a) of starred question No 557, asked by Mr Pare Lall Kurel on the 21st March, 1944
SCHEDULED CASTES STAFF OF THE SUPPLY DEPARTMENT
Statement showing the communal representation including that of the Scheduled Castes in the gazetted and non-gazetted staff of the Supply Department as at stood on 1st March, 1944

Serial No.	Name of Organization	Gazetted Staff				Non-gazetted Staff				Remarks	Total	Remarks
		Hindus	Muslims	Scheduled Castes	O M C	Hindus	Muslims	Scheduled Castes	O M C			
1	Main Secretariat	14	4		4	27	Excludes seven Europeans	173	71	1	16	261
2	Directorate General, Munitions Production	136	10		36	182	Excludes 361 Europeans	8,212	1,382	88	1,278	10,900 Excludes 459 Europeans
3	Directorate General, Supply (including Directorate General, Disposals)	172	46	3	20	241	Excludes 136 Europeans	2,614	1,349	92	453	4,408 Excludes 539 Europeans
4	Directorate General, Shipping and Repairs	6			5	11	Excludes 46 Europeans	91	9		58	138
5	Directorate General, Aircraft	2	3		3	8	Excludes 18 Europeans and R A F Officers	148	42	1	16	207 Excludes 5 Europeans
6	Chief Administrative Officer (Purchases)	133	30		1	20	Excludes 16 Europeans	1,790	638	12	194	2,634
7	Electrical Commissioner with the Government of India	12			1	13	Excludes 11 Europeans	98	12		11	121
8	Iron and Steel Controller	26	1	1	10	38	Excludes 12 Europeans	501	10	29	38	578
9	All Controllers of Supplies	23	5		12	40	Excludes two Europeans and one Armenian	596	153	15	74	838
Total		524	124	5	111	764		14,223	3,656	238	2,138	20,258

Gazetted Non-gazetted	Personnel	Hindus		Muslims		Scheduled Castes		Other Minority Communities		Total
		No	Percentage	No	Percentage	No	Percentage	No	Percentage	
		524	68.6	124	16.2	5	0.7	111	14.6	764
		14,223	70.2	3,656	18.0	238	1.2	2,138	10.6	20,255

NOTE.—The details on account of Ordnance Factories Staff included in 5 No. 2 are as on 1st March, 1944 and not 1st March, 1944.

Information promised in reply to unstarred question No. 167 asked by Mr Muhammad Ashar Ali on the 23rd March, 1944

NON-PAYMENT OF RANK-PAY TO CERTAIN PERSONNEL AT TRANSPORTATION TRAINING CENTRE, JULLIANDHAR CANTONMENT

Question No 167—(a) and (b) There was some misunderstanding on the part of eight men regarding their trade pay

Six of these men were enrolled as Hummatman, a category which was subsequently abolished, and they were given six months in which to qualify for re-enlisting to another trade. Thus they failed to do and were discharged. They did receive trade pay as hummatmen up to the date of their discharge.

Another man was employed on the wrong rates of trade pay as he submitted a wrong Last Pay Certificate. When the error was discovered he was unwilling to continue to serve on the correct rates of pay, so it was decided that he should be discharged and paid on the promised rates of pay up to the date of his discharge.

The case of the eighth man is still the subject of correspondence.

Information promised in reply to starred questions Nos. 617 and 619 Parts (b) and (c) asked by Mr. Muhammad Ashar Ali on the 21st March, 1944

MUSLIMS AS CAMP CLERKS IN THE OFFICE OF POSTMASTER GENERAL, U P

(question No 617—(a)) Yes. Eligible Muslim candidates were not available when the appointments were made.

(b) There is no separate cadre of stenographers in circle offices. Clerks employed there as stenographers continue to be borne on the clerical cadre. The Home Department orders regarding distribution of posts among the different communities at the time of recruitment do not therefore, apply to appointment of stenographers in circle offices. The Director General, Posts & Telegraphs has, however, issued instructions to all Heads of Circles pointing out to them the necessity for avoiding preponderance of any one class or community in the group of clerks who are employed as stenographers.

APPOINTMENTS TO POSTS CARRYING ALLOWANCES IN CIRCLE POST OFFICES IN U P

Question No 619—(b) The Postmaster General has been instructed to keep the directive in view in making future appointments.

(c) There is a permanent vacancy to which a Muslim is being appointed.

Information promised in the reply to part (a) of Starred Question No 64, asked by Mr H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait on behalf of Seth Yusuf Abdool Haroon on the 3rd November, 1944

APPLICATIONS FOR SCHEDULE VII LEASES UNDER CANTONMENT LAND ADMINISTRATION RULES

Statement showing by Cantonnments the number of applications received during the years 1937, 1938, 1939, 1940, 1941, 1942, 1943 and 1944, for the grant of leases in Schedule VII of the Cantonment Land Administration Rules, 1937, and the number of applications rejected

Name of the Cantonment	Number of applications received	Year in which received	Number of applications rejected
Abbottabad	1	1941	
Allahabad	1	1938	
Amritsar	1	1939	1
Anantnag	1	1938	
	2	1939	
Barrackpore	2	1941	
Cawnpore	1	1943	
Chakrata	1	1940	
Jhelum	1	1938	
Karachi	1	1940	1
	10	1941	10
	9	1942	2
	9	1944	9

Name of Cantonment	Number of applications received.	Year in which received	Number of applications rejected
Lahore	11	1938	1
	5	1939	2
	1	1940	1
	2	1941	1
	2	1942	2
	1	1943	
	2	1944	1
Lucknow	1	1940	
Meerut	1	1939	
Multan	2	1938	
Poohawar	1	1938	1
Poona	1	1939	1
Rawalpindi	2	1938	1
	1	1939	1
	5	1940	5
	3	1941	2
	2	1942	
Sialkot	3	1935	
Total	86		42

Information in respect of the other Cantonments—Nil

Information promised in reply to starred question No. 76 asked by Sardar Sant Singh on the 3rd November, 1944

MURDER AND OUTRAGES IN CALCUTTA ON INDIANS BY AMERICANS AND AMERICAN NEGROES.

- (a) (i) 1942—Nil
1943—Nil
1944—3 Murderous assaults including 2 on Sikh motor drivers
(ii) 1942—1
1943 1944—Nil
(iii) No damage was done to the property of the hotel.
(b) No
(c) Does not arise
(d) Twice in 1944—once for four or five days and a second time for three days.
(e) Where the evidence justified it the accused were put on trial before an American Court Martial. Such proceedings are open to the public and the decision is given in open court.

Information promised in reply to unstarred question No. 57, asked by Mr G. Rangiah Naidu, on the 14th November, 1944

PROHIBITION OF MOVEMENT OF SODA ASH AND FULLER'S EARTH OF CERTAIN SECTIONS OF RAILWAYS.

It is not a fact that the movement of soda ash for a distance beyond two hundred miles to stations on the East Indian Railway from stations on the S S L Rly and from stations on the N W Rly is prohibited.

The fact is that all movements of soda ash except those authorised by the RCRP Lahore are restricted from stations on the S S L Rly and N W Rly to any station on the E I Rly. An exception to this order has been made in the case of imported soda ash consigned by Messrs Imperial Chemical Industries Ltd., (India) (who are the sole importers) from Karachi to stations on the E I Rly in the United Provinces. This restriction was imposed in order to eliminate uneconomical cross movements of soda ash from North West India and from Calcutta.

Fuller's earth is included in a list of articles whose movement is prohibited except under the authority of the RCRP Lahore over a distance exceeding two hundred miles when booked from stations on the N W Rly. This restricts the movement from stations on the N W Rly to stations on the E I Rly which are more than two hundred miles apart. This restriction has been imposed in pursuance of the general policy of limiting the distance of movement of such commodities which, or suitable substitutes for which, are obtainable locally.

Supplies of Fuller's earth are available on the E I Rly.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION AND ANSWER

ADJUDICATION INTO GRIEVANCES OF BOMBAY POSTMEN AND INFERIOR SERVANTS

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Will the Secretary for Posts and Air be pleased to state

- (a) whether the Bombay Postmen and Inferior Servants in the Department 12 Noon have given notice asking for adjudication into their grievances,
- (b) whether Government of India propose to take any steps to remove their grievances, and
- (c) whether Government of India is prepared to grant adjudication, if not, why not?

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: (a) The fact is not as stated. The Bombay Postmen's Union and the Bombay Post Office Lower Grade Staff Union have addressed the Postmaster-General, Bombay, asking for certain reliefs and giving notice under section 15 of the Trade Disputes Act.

(b) The matter is already under consideration.

(c) Does not arise in view of the reply to part (a).

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: May I know from the Honourable Member if the Karachi staff have also complained and whether their case is under consideration?

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: I do not know whether the question arises, but I have heard nothing from Karachi.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: The Honourable Member will hear it soon.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I ask whether Government is aware that the Bombay postmen and inferior servants are likely to go on strike if no relief is given in time?

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: The notice which we received under section 15 of the Trade Disputes Act—and I am not in a position to say whether that notice is valid or not—indicated that the postmen and lower grade staff contemplated a strike after 15 days if certain of their demands were not considered or met.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I ask therefore why Government say that the question for adjudication does not arise? If they have given notice under the Trade Disputes Act and are asking for grant of adjudication, Government must take action.

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: Because what may appear to some other Members an anomaly, (although notice has been given under the Trade Disputes Act), a trade dispute does not exist.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I know, Sir, what is the meaning of the Honourable Member when he says that a trade dispute does not exist because the postmen and lower grade staff have a grievance against Government? They have made certain demands which Government are not granting.

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: May I suggest that the Honourable Member in order to save a little time, might take legal opinion on the point which he has raised.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: I have taken part in the discussion of that Bill when it was passed in this House and I know the law very well, and I think that there is no need for me to get legal opinion. I therefore want to know from the Government of India what action they propose to take, and when.

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: I have informed the Honourable Member, Sir, that the matter is already under consideration. If he would like some expansion of that reply, I may also inform him that the principle of arranging for sales of foodgrains at concession rates to the P & T staff wherever practicable has been accepted by Government.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I know

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) Order, order.

ELECTION OF A MEMBER TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE FOR THE FOOD DEPARTMENT

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) I have to inform the Assembly that up to 5 p.m. on Monday the 20th November 1944, the time fixed for receiving nominations for the Standing Committee for the Food Department, only one nomination was received. As there is only one vacancy I declare Shams-ul-Ulema Kamaluddin Ahmad to be duly elected.

MESSAGE FROM THE COUNCIL OF STATE

Secretary of the Assembly: The following message has been received from the Council of State

'I am directed to inform you that the Council of State at its meeting held on the 20th November 1944, agreed without any amendment to the following Bills which were passed by the Legislative Assembly at its meetings held on the 13th and the 15th November, 1944, namely

- 1 A Bill temporarily to amend the Indian Patents and Designs Act, 1911
- 2 A Bill further to amend the Coffee Market Expansion Act, 1942
- 3 A Bill further to amend the Delhi Joint Water and Sewage Board Act, 1926
- 4 A Bill to consolidate and amend the law relating to Government securities issued by the Central Government and to the management by the Reserve Bank of India of the public debt of the Central Government "

RESOLUTION RE CONSTITUTION OF THE PERMANENT FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Mr. President (The Honorable Sir Abdur Rahim) The House will now proceed with the further consideration of the motion moved by Mr. Tyson

Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall (Bhagalpur, Purnea and the Sonthal Parganas Non-Muhammudan) I sent a notice yesterday for moving a motion of no confidence against the President to which I have received a reply from the Secretary telling me that under the Legislative Rule 24(a) I have to seek the consent of the Member in charge and of the President. I find from the Rules

Mr. President (The Honorable Sir Abdur Rahim) Order, order. The Honourable Member cannot discuss my ruling, I have given my ruling. The Honourable Member must accept it.

Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall: I do not want to discuss that question. I want to say

Mr. President (The Honorable Sir Abdur Rahim) The Honourable Member cannot discuss that matter at all now.

Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall: I want to find out who is the Member concerned with the conduct of the President?

Mr. President (The Honorable Sir Abdur Rahim) It is the Leader of the House whose consent has to be obtained.

Mr. Ananga Mohan Das (Shimla Valley cum Shillong Non-Muhammudan) Sir, I was telling the House that if Government does not implement the recommendations made by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization we stand to gain nothing. Sir, this Organization seeks to make people of all lands free from want and for this reason they are willing to raise the standard of living of the people of our country also. It has become almost a slogan to speak of planning and raising the standard of life. Even the industrialists of England have begun to say that the political development of India can wait but the agricultural and industrial development cannot wait any longer. Sir, the industrialists of other countries have also realised that the standard of life of the people of backward countries of Asia and Africa should, in their own interest, be raised.

The Honourable the Mover of the motion has requested us to contribute our quota to the Fund of the Organization. We are glad to do it because the recommendation says that the Governments and authorities here represented immediately undertake the task of increasing the food resources and improving the diets of their people in accordance with the principles and objectives outlined in the findings of the Conference and declare to their respective peoples and to other Governments and authorities here represented their intention of so doing. Because the Government is required by this recommendation to declare to their people what steps they will be taking to raise the nutritional value of our diet and to raise the standard of life of our people, I am willing to support the motion moved by my Honourable friend, Mr. Tyson. Sir, I cannot understand the principle by which the United States of America have been asked to contribute 25 per cent and India has been required to pay 4.25 per cent. It is such a good organization and we expect very good results to follow from such a world-wide organization and India should be willing to contribute more. If the principle

was known I would have requested my countrymen to pay more to the fund so that we could gain more in the future.

There is another point to which I wish to draw the attention of this House. A section of the Members of United Nations organisation thinks that this organisation should be deferred because of the technically qualified personnel not being available during war time. But I think that we should agree to the opinions expressed by the interim Commission that the work of this organisation should be started as soon as possible. After the cessation of hostilities a time will come when there will be a fluidity of conditions and people will be more favourable to the acceptance of sound and thorough measures for meeting the problems of agricultural improvement.

Though I believe in utility of this organisation, I do not believe in the statement made by the organisation that the freedom from want of food cannot be achieved by one country without the co-operation of the other. It may be true for the rest of the world but it is not true for India. India is a country full of vast resources and it can be made easily self-sufficient if the Government of India is efficient enough to carry out the measures. It is because of lack of imagination and efficiency of the Central Government that such a vast country like India has not been developed to its full limit. We are tired of tall talks and broken pledges of Britishers. Still we are willing to contribute to this fund in the hope that this Government will implement the recommendations and abide by the policy suggested by the United Nations organisation. It is a good sign that this organisation intends to look for rural uplift. This organisation wishes to help agriculturists by supporting them financially in their agricultural pursuit. The United Nations organisation and the Government of India are both wrong in emphasising too much the utility of the co-operative credit societies. In the whole of India, save and except in the Punjab the co-operative credit society movement has been a complete failure. So the Organisation and the Government of India should look to other methods of financing the agriculturists. I think Joint Stock Agricultural Banks should be established for this purpose. I do not want to go into details but I say that the co-operative credit societies have not been successful because they are based on the theory vicarious achievement.

There is a suggestion for inter-provincial migration. So there has been a cry that vast lands are lying fallow in Assam and that other people from outside should go and settle there. There are 54,000 square miles in Assam of which more than 60 per cent of the area is under the hills, only about 20,000 sq. miles are cultivable and they are necessary for the indigenous people and tribal hillmen and backward peoples. I think this Government should have other schemes, excluding Assam for the migration of people from over-populated areas. If the emigrants think that Assam will give them a good scope, they will be completely disillusioned though a false cry has been raised by the Muslim Leaguers in Assam.

I quite agree with the suggestion of this organisation that the first step towards the solution of the food problem must not wait till after the solution of all other problems. This organisation also intends to secure for agriculturist the stimulus of additional purchasing power by the development of industry. Here I must draw the attention of the Central Government to the development of cottage industries in different provinces.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) The Honourable Member has one minute more.

Mr. Ananga Mohan Das: Whenever these questions come before the Central Government they say that these are provincial subjects. What I want is a direction and a move from the Central Government for co-ordinating all these activities. If the Central Government is strong enough to push the programme and carry it out I do not think any Provincial Government will stand in the way because the measures that will be undertaken will be for the good of the people.

With these words I support the amendment to the motion, moved by my Honourable friend Mr. K. C. Neogy.

Mr. B. Das (Orissa Division Non-Muhammadan) I tried to listen carefully to the Honourable Mr. Tyson and what I gathered from his speech was this. All quiet on the Indian Front. India's position in the international front is splendid. India's Agent-General in America is in full accord with President Roosevelt and hob-nobbing with Cordell Hull. India has done very well. India has got the Four Freedoms of the World as defined by President Roosevelt. From him I understand that India wants nothing else but "freedom from want" and that international intervention will bring it about.

Talking of international organisations, war time confabulations have brought two such. One was the UNRRA which was discussed by the Honourable the Commerce Member towards close of the last Session and the other the present one on Agriculture and Food. This last one is an inspiration from President Roosevelt and we have to consider whether it will not meet the same fate as the League of Nations, another international organisation, which was brought into existence by another democratic President of America, President Woodrow Wilson. It was the Machiavellian diplomacy of the European powers that killed the League of Nations and poor President Wilson, ailing in body and soul, died broken-hearted. We have yet to see whether President Roosevelt will succeed in his ambitious idea. The Government ought to have been considerate enough to tell us how many international organisations are to come into existence during war time, because during the last Great War there were no such schemes except the post-war one, the League of Nations which is now dead but for its associated organisation the International Labour Organisation, which is functioning partially. We have to remember that after the war there will be a few post-war international schemes and organisations. What would be the commitments of India, both financial and economic now and hereafter? It is better that either the Honourable the Commerce Member or the Leader of the House should take us into his confidence as to the plans which are being hatched, be it in White House or be it in Whitehall. We should know our future commitments and our future status in those international organisations.

The Honourable the Commerce Member regretted the absence of the Congress Party last time when another international organisation, the UNRRA, was being discussed in this House, he felt that our absence on that occasion when international co-operation was being discussed might be misunderstood. But it should be remembered that we recorded a silent vote. Our experience of international co-operation is of longer standing than the Honourable the Commerce Member's. Our experience of the last twenty years is very disappointing in regard to these international organisations. Yet our silent vote was wrongly mis-interpreted by the Honourable the Commerce Member and he tried to have a dig at us in our absence.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque (Member for Commerce and Industries and Civil Supplies) This is the first time I hear of a 'silent vote'.

Mr. B. Das: If we had been here you would have been voted down and that is why I say that we recorded our silent vote by our absence. It does not mean that we approved of every thing that the Honourable the Commerce Member said or what Mr. Tyson said yesterday. I think my Honourable friend the Commerce Member should not have put such a question when he knows that we are followers of Mahatma Gandhi, the greatest humanitarian of the day. If these international schemes are only humanitarian schemes meant to alleviate the distress of humanity, the Honourable Member ought not to have questioned our *bona fides*. Let me here assure the United States of America that we are always willing to examine any international schemes that may come from the White House but we have to examine them critically to see whether they will not upset our trade, industry and agriculture by competition, by cartels and by subsidies, the last of which the U.S.A. has already introduced as regards its cotton exports.

Sir, I also take this opportunity to offer the sincere regret of the Indian people to America and to President Roosevelt and his Indian Ambassador Mr. Phillips. I offer the apology of the Congress Party and the people of India to

President Roosevelt, to his Ambassador Mr. Phillips and to the American people for the insult for the Ambassador by this subordinate Government of India.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) The Honourable Member must not go into all that. It has nothing to do with the subject under discussion.

Mr. B. Das: Sir, we feel that India has not been given an international status in the UNRRA, since no Indian has been taken in its Executive Council. What will be India's fate in the case of this international organisation on Food and Agriculture? Will the Government of India insist that an Indian should be appointed to the Executive Committee? Why should China have a member in it and why should not India have one? Where is India's equality of status when we are all the time ruled in every small detail by Messrs. (Churchill, Amery & Company)? How is the Government of India independent? How is Sir C. S. Bapat, India's Agent-General in the U.S.A., independent? Did he take his orders from Mr. Richard Law and Lord Halifax in all matters pertaining to India and her international status?

Sir, I referred to competition, cartels and subsidies. At the time of the Hot Springs Conference last year, from the little bits of news that came out in the press I developed a suspicion that this was another way of American system of cartels to restrict Indian production. Two days ago I saw a special cable in the National Call to the effect that America has given a subsidy for cotton export. Even the Manchester Guardian wrote:

"It can hardly fail to produce reactions in India and this is considered to be specially regrettable, because Indian cotton growing industry has been gravely disturbed by the loss of its export trade with Japan."

I do not know what the Government of India have since done since America has given a subsidy for the export of cotton. What this organisation on Food and Agriculture is aiming at is what the League of Nations attempted. The League of Nations attempted to grow more food to remove deficiency diseases and to have better public health. It did nothing except to have a few conferences where Indian representatives conducted themselves as bond-slaves of the British Delegation. India achieved nothing in the League of Nations and the League of Nations also achieved nothing. The American mind is very shrewd and business-like and we have to examine whether this international organisation which is the product of the American brain will not try to introduce restrictions in the production of agricultural products. As a result of the League of Nations, there has been restrictions of production of rubber, tea and coffee. Who knows what the capitalists in America will have to say now? Who knows whether the cotton kings and wheat kings of America will not do the same one day in the matter of cotton and wheat also? Of course, Britain will tacitly agree with what America may say and in consequence India's growth of food stuffs may be reduced in order to benefit the American producers.

My Honourable friend Mr. Tyson said that we have to accept this constitution and if any improvement has to be made it can be done by our representative later. India, in her present war-time involvement and, partly through her war efforts also has gone through an unprecedented famine in Bengal, Orissa, Assam and other parts of the country, and the collaring by the British Government of India's liquid assets, the sterling balances, which has also been taken away from the people in the name of war efforts at very low costs by controlled purchases—only thousand million sterling has been collared from us and it should be really worth two thousand million sterling, and in our extreme poverty we do not know if England will ever return the money to us after the war or if England will keep it herself. So it is much better that we do not commit ourselves to heavy expenses. We can only give a token subscription. I hope my Honourable friend, Mr. Tyson, will see that our representative puts that point before the Council, and gets the amount reduced.

One other point to which I wish to draw the attention both of Mr. Tyson and of the Honourable the Commerce Member is this: that the literature on these international organisations and the conferences in England and elsewhere, whether it is Whitehall or White House,—very little of this literature is to be found

[Mr. B. Das.]
in our library. We find no report by the Agent General, nor do we find the instructions that were issued by the Commerce Member or the Member for Agriculture or by the Government of India as a whole. There is nothing secret about these matters and why is it that we Members are kept in the dark and the country is kept in the dark? This is an aspect of the matter which the Honourable Member will, I hope, redress, and in future we must have better literature available in the library and also to the public.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) The Honourable Member has one minute more.

Mr. B. Das: Sir, I am not opposing the participation of India in this international Organisation, but I have given this warning to the Government of India, who have of course no separate status, and who must take their orders from Churchills and Amerys, that instead of taking their orders from these Churchills and Amerys and other dictators in England they must see that India's future is not committed that India's production does not get reduced and that those three powerful nations, the United States of America, Great Britain and Russia do not give subsidies to cheap agricultural produce in a way that will restrict production in India.

Mr. K. C. Neogy (Dacca Division Non-Muhammadan Rural) Sir, while I listened to my Honourable friend Mr. Tyson yesterday, I was somewhat surprised at his modesty because he might easily have claimed that through this innocent looking Resolution he was seeking to extend the application of the Atlantic Charter to India. My Honourable friend has not cared to distribute among us the report of the Indian delegation to the Hot Springs Conference, but I managed to secure one of the very few copies that are available in the library, and I find that the Rajput delegation stated in that report that due to the historical and the geographical setting of the Hot Springs Conference, the Conference tried to fit their recommendations into the frame work of the Atlantic Charter. Now, the Atlantic Charter is a very well-known document of eight clauses, and I find that clause 6 has a direct bearing upon the movement that we are now discussing. Clause 6 adopts as the ideal for the post-war world freedom from fear and want. Now, in the documents that the Honourable Member has placed at our disposal, some of which read like fairy tales to us, particularly those who come from the Eastern provinces, we find that this particular clause of the Atlantic Charter has been sought to be given an extended application by way of amplification of the objects underlying it. I want to make it quite clear that we have no objection to that part of the activity of this Organisation. But incidentally we find that another article of the Atlantic Charter though not quite directly genuine to the object of this particular Organisation, has also been sought to be given effect to. I am referring to article 4 of that joint declaration, which assures to the nations access on equal terms to the trade and to the raw materials of the world which are needed for their economic prosperity. The House definitely understands that this item is not quite within the compass of the limited scope of the particular Organisation that we are now discussing, but we find that in the Final Act, under the head national security and achievement of an economy of abundance, the conference has made certain recommendations which go beyond the limited sphere of food and agriculture, and raise questions of tariff policies and of giving access to raw materials of the world to the different countries on an equal footing, raw materials not exclusively of the agricultural variety. Explaining the intrusion of this somewhat irrelevant matter within the scope of the work of the conference, the Rajput delegation say in their report that though the conference had no desire to travel outside the allotted scope of its activities they had to relate their recommendations to other cognate fields of economic activity.

Now, when we remember the history of this clause in the Atlantic Charter, when we remember particularly the great hold which the international co-operationist school of America has upon the moulding of post-war policies in this

matter, we cannot but feel somewhat alarmed at the possibility of India's unexploited resources, particularly in the mineral field, being exploited by the other nations of the world.

Sir, the resolutions which are embodied in the Final Act Nos XXIII and XXIV talk of development of uneconomic industries, the imposition of barriers to international trade which they also predicate equality of access to materials and markets and again the promotion of the uninterrupted development and most advantageous use of agricultural and other material resources for the establishment of an equitable balance between agriculture and industry in the interest of all. I should like to tell the Honourable Member in charge that he should find it definitely clear on behalf of India, that in giving our assent to the constitution of this Organisation we definitely make it clear that questions like tariff policy, or accessibility of the different countries in the world to our raw materials, must be kept outside the compass of the deliberations of this body. It is on that understanding that we should like to give our assent to the present proposal.

Let us now consider some of the recommendations to which my Honourable friend did not unfortunately make a reference. My Honourable friend tried to make out that this Organisation is concerned merely with a long term policy of agricultural development and improvement of dietary conditions. I was rather disappointed that my Honourable friend did not even make mention of the immediate objects which the conference laid down for the serious consideration of the people that were represented on it. Honourable Members will find, at pages 45 and 48, certain recommendations which are of an immediate character. Take page 45 for instance. "Improvement of National Diets"—this is the heading of one of the resolutions, and the conference makes the recommendation that Governments and authorities here represented *immediately* undertake the task of increasing the food resources and improving the diets of their people in accordance with the principles and objectives outlined in the findings of the conference. Then again, Diets of vulnerable groups are mentioned in the next recommendation. Then again a reference is made to malnutrition and disease and thereafter we have a resolution specifically on Deficiency Diseases. The recommendation is in these terms:

"That the several governments and authorities here represented undertake immediately to ascertain the prevalence of specific deficiency diseases among their respective peoples, to deal with them by suitable dietary and therapeutic measures, to take appropriate steps to prevent their recurrence."

Dealing with these recommendations, we find that the Indian Delegation made it clear that India was not in a position to carry them out. They said that even the attainment of intermediate standards would be a formidable task for countries like China and India where, however, the formulation of such standards may be a useful guide to those engaged in production.

Now Sir, these recommendations were definitely addressed to the Governments of the different countries represented at the conference, and the Indian Delegation said, "Well let us pass them on to the cultivators. If the conference expects the standard of nutrition to be improved in the dietary of the people, let us ask the cultivators to go in for a larger cultivation of nutritive food." That is what the report of Indian Delegation amounts to. I should like to hear from my Honourable friend what the attitude of the Government of India in this matter is, and whether this attitude of the Indian Delegation was inspired by the Government of India.

As we have the spectacle of valuable recommendations having already been rejected by the Indian Delegation, we have another curious spectacle and that is this, that even where the Indian Delegation definitely laid down the ideal standards of the dietary for Indians, the Government of India have repudiated the Indian Delegation.

Now, in the report of the Bappai Delegation, Honourable Members will find a note which the Delegation submitted to the conference dealing with the question of dietary, deficiency and so on. Certain calculations were given there, evidently worked out by such a high authority on the question as Dr Aykroyd and also

[Mr K C Neogy]

Sir Phuzoe Kharegt. Certain standards were laid down by them as the target to be aimed at, and this is what I find in the first report on the Progress of Reconstruction Planning issued by the Government of India in March last.

"The conclusions of the Indian Delegation to the Hot Springs Conference do not represent the considered views of the Government of India on the question of what targets in respect of nutrition should be accepted."

So we are in this position that we are merely asked to be a party to the setting up of this Organisation, though we see that certain very valuable recommendations made by it has been already repudiated by the Indian Delegation in the name of India. In regard to what the Indian Delegation has said in the name of India, as regards the standards of dietary that should be adopted by India, the Government of India have repudiated the Delegation. I should like to know whether the Government of India have any serious intention of carrying out the recommendations of this body. That is why I propose in my amendment that the Government should agree, here and now, to give effect to the recommendations of this important body in regard to all questions of important principle, subject of course to the approval of the Legislature. Sir, I am perfectly aware that the recommendations that have been made by this body, and that may be made in future, have no binding effect upon the countries that may participate in the conference, but then as the Chairman of the Conference stated each Government will be entirely free to act according to the will of its own people constitutionally expressed. It is for the purpose of giving expression to that condition that I have ventured to move this amendment and I desire that the Government would give an assurance on the floor of this House that they are prepared to carry out the more important recommendations of this body, and that whatever action they may decide to take upon these recommendations, they will do so after consulting, and in accordance with, the wishes of the Legislature.

Mr. R. R. Gupta (Cities of the United Provinces Non-Muhammadan Urban). Mr. President, I know that I am voicing the feelings of this side of the House when I say that we the non-official Members of this House will always be found helping the Government and supporting the Government in every measure which they bring forward before this House and which aims at increasing the International co-operation with India. But unfortunately when the Members on this side of the House want to increase our co-operation in International fields, the Government by its actions makes it difficult for us to support such measures enthusiastically and compels us to hesitate in according our sanction and support to such measures. In the last Session, so far as I remember, the House agreed to participate in the U N R R A scheme and the Honourable Member who is sitting here gave us a sort of understanding that he will take the House into his confidence while selecting the representative of India to represent this country in the U N R R A Conference. But I came to know from the Press that Sir Gurja Shankar Bajpai represented our country in the last Conference. It is still not known to us what happened to the request of the House and their desire expressed at that time that whenever any such measure is being discussed, India will be included in the list of the beneficiaries under the U N R R A scheme. The fact is that I find that in any Conferences convened for the co-operation of various countries on International lines, somehow or other Government has been persistently trying to exclude this House. I do not know why it is so. It may be due either to the fact that the Government has come to realise that this House is not representative enough to be allowed importance in any International field or because the Government is finding that they are suffering one defeat after another in this House and therefore they want to belittle the position of this House in the eyes of other countries. Otherwise, there is no reason why in so many Conferences which have been held recently and in which India has participated the representation and advice of this House should have been ignored in the way in which it has been done. So far as I remember, of late more than half a dozen Conferences were convened, and I do not think in any of those Conferences the representation of this House was secured in any

effective manner. Later, in the Conference held at Bretton Woods only the Honorable the Finance Member represented this country. I am glad he tried his best to secure interest for India but his attempt failed. So far as I remember, the reason why he failed was that the Governments of other countries realised that the representation of India will mean another seat for the British Government because India has always been represented by a Government which is responsible to British Government and the representation of this country is secured on the advice of the Secretary of State rather than on the advice of the Central Legislature in this country. Is it not in the interest of the British Government as well as in the interest of the Government of India that the Indian representative committee should take the advice of the Indian people also? If India gets another extra seat on these International Conferences, I do not think the interest of Great Britain will be jeopardised in any way. Of course it will mean one thing only, namely, that in that case India will secure such status in the eyes of the International League that it will be supposed to have a sort of Dominion status. I fear that in the interests of the Government itself in all these International Conferences where India is to be represented there should consist the very subtle as at least the leaders while nominating the representatives of this country. Such a process will have another advantage. My experience is that up till now whatever is being done in those Conferences India does not get full advantage of those schemes for the simple reason that the Government is not interested that this country should participate in those conferences for good of people of this country. Our Government does not want to take advantage of expert advice and the various schemes proposed by these Conferences because if they do so they have to tackle the welfare problem of India more seriously than what they have been doing hitherto. Therefore I submit that the Government must assume that they will secure the support of this House in securing the representation of India for such Conferences. Also as Mr. Vigness' amendment demands they should keep the House fully informed about the actions which the Government may decide to take in support of the decisions of these Conferences. So far as I am personally concerned I feel that in this particular field it will be very difficult for India to take any advantage for the simple reason that agreement in all the committees varies in its characteristics, and in its method of production and also its effects on the people. In almost all other countries except a few Asiatic countries agriculture is not that sort of backward profession as it is in India. In other countries, increased methods are adopted for increasing the productive capacity of the land, whereas in India the agriculture is still carried on on the same old primitive basis. Small holdings are scattered all over India. The method of production is still by means of manual labour. Therefore, it is nothing but a natural that while other countries are in a position to sell their agricultural products cheaply, our problem is to secure high prices for our produce. This still derives one advantage namely that we will have expert knowledge. Our representatives who go to these Conferences will know the methods adopted by other countries in making the agricultural occupation more scientific, more humane and more productive and in securing the required quantity of food for their people. But, Sir, that advantage can be utilised for the benefit of this country only if the representative who represents India is a man who can grasp the knowledge and is in a position to force the Government here in India to utilise that knowledge. I submit, Sir, with the type of official members who have been representing this country at these conferences we cannot get that advantage at all. With these words, I support the amendment moved by Mr. Neoga.

Mr. Abdul Gafur (North-West Frontier Province General) Sir, I rise to support the motion for the acceptance of the Constitution of the permanent Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations. At the same time, I wish to state certain things. The first question which I am going to touch

[Mr Abdul Qayyum]

will be addressed to this international organisation itself, and I hope that some method will be adopted by the Government whereby certain suggestions made from this side of the House would be conveyed to this international organisation. The other remarks which I am going to address will be directed to the Government of India. Sir, we are not isolationists and there is no desire in this country that we should cut ourselves away from international co-operation with other countries with a view to promote the welfare of humanity. At the same time we suggest that there should be some method for this international organisation to look into and examine the credentials of governments which apply for membership of such committees. I would like this international organisation for Food and Agriculture to examine the credentials of the Government of India before the Government of India is admitted to the membership of this organisation. They must look at the past record of the Government of India as to what they have done for the development of agriculture in this country. They must see the facts of the situation as they are in this country. What is the situation here in this country? We have famines which have been recurring from time to time. We have a sort of chronic malnutrition, and day after day we read reports in newspapers that very large number of destitutes swarm into Calcutta from the outlying villages of Bengal and die on the pavements of the premier city of the Indian Empire. This is a scandalous state of affairs indeed. If we look at the other achievements of the Government of India we find that the condition of the rural population is really very appalling indeed. There is absolute illiteracy and no satisfactory arrangements have been made for educating the rural masses, for teaching them how to develop the science of agriculture, how to produce more out of the soil, how to employ better methods in order to raise more of such products from the soil on which they entirely depend for their livelihood.

Then Sir, if we are to look at the arrangements which have been made for medical relief of this agricultural population, we find that the arrangements are really of the most primitive type, and that at the present time, there are hundreds and thousands of people in the country-side in the rural areas, engaged in the production of food—which is an absolute vital necessity for the existence of our people, who are literally dying out of sheer absence of requisite medical aid. There are not enough hospitals scattered over the rural areas, medicine is not available for the protection of these people. Then if we further examine the situation, we find that millions and millions of agricultural labourers and tenants in this country,—in spite of the fact that the Government of India claim to sit in terms of equality with the representatives of other advanced nations, millions and millions of agricultural labourers and tenants in this country are no better than serfs, and there are millions of people who cannot get one square meal a day.

Then Sir, while the Government of India has been very solicitous to bring before us Laws and to promulgate Ordinances as to how much should be charged for the tailoring of a suit, how much should be charged for a coat and so on, what is their record in overhauling and modernising the system of land tenure in this country? While you take ample care of the minutest detail as to how much should be charged for this item or for that item in matters trivial in the case of the most important industry in this country, namely agriculture, you have allowed the system of landlordism to grow and develop unchecked, and you have allowed a certain class of people to play with food—on which the masses depend for their very existence. What have you done in this respect? Great experiments have been tried in western countries and vast improvements made by enlightened governments of other countries to check the rapacity of the landlords, but the Government of India, which has got a soft corner for such people out of political considerations, because they happen to be the most conservative element in this country, because they always stand out with the Government of India against those who fight for freedom, purely for political considerations, the Government of India have allowed these people to remain in their old position, to acquire more power,

and has thereby permitted a limited class of selfish people to play with the lives of the masses.

Another thing about which I wish to warn the Government is this: that while we are prepared to co-operate with the other nations in the matter of exchange of scientific knowledge in the matter of the improvement of production, better production, more intensive agriculture, and all the rest of it, at the same time our bitter experience has been that it has become the fashion amongst western countries to look upon India as a country which will go on producing raw materials at a very cheap rate,—for feeding the industrial plants of the west, so that these people can manufacture and with the aid of a spineless Government here dump their goods into this country and kill our industries,—the welfare of which we all have at heart. Great care must be taken. Even now when the war is on, and when the price of agricultural products is soaring high in other countries, the Government of India has allowed foreign governments to buy cheap in our markets and has sacrificed the interests of our kisans, the primary producers of agricultural products. Sir, we must make our position clear: that in a fast changing world, in a world where communications are liable to be cut off at any moment, our object is very clear one. We stand for self-sufficiency in the matter of food for our nation, we stand for self-sufficiency in the matter of industrialisation for our nation, we want to use all the surplus produce from the land for setting up industries in this country, so that we do not have to be mere hewers of wood and drawers of water that we are. This is the intention of the western countries. We are willing to co-operate with other countries in the world, as far as improvement of agriculture is concerned, but at the same time, we must make it clear that we want to establish vital industries in this country. At the same time, it is our aim that the benefits from these industries should not go to certain enterprising but selfish individuals. These industries should be so developed and owned that the benefit should go to the people of this country. This is the object we aim at. Therefore we are not going to permit the Government of India to co-operate on terms which will make it possible for outside people to take our raw produce so that the industrialists of the United Nations, the industrialists in Great Britain and other advanced countries of the west flourish at our expense. I said at the outset that we are not isolationists. But we have been warned by the manner in which we have been treated in other international gatherings. We have found that the Government of India has been absolutely helpless to look after the interests of our people.

Sir, we are supposed to be at war out of our own free will—at least that is what is given out to the world—against the Fascist powers, and we are considered to be one of the United Nations who are fighting for democracy. But we know that while we are supposed to be fighting for democracy, while we are invited to international gatherings where interesting lectures are delivered about the world being made safe for democracy, what is the kind of democracy that we have in this country? Here we have an autocratic Government, irresponsible to the people, defeated day in and day out, and yet it is in office and we are helpless. If we rebel we are called rebels; if we defeat them by constitutional methods they are allowed to carry on ineptly. Similarly India was let down in the matter of the Atlantic Charter, and now we are told that we must co-operate with this international conference because this conference will mean freedom from hunger. But I want to make sure, and I want the Government of India to make sure that this freedom from hunger will not be restricted to the western nations; that it will really mean freedom from want and freedom from hunger for the toiling millions of this country. We were asked to join the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Organisation,—a very high-sounding name,—and probably we will soon be asked to make a very big contribution towards the budget of that organisation. But while that organisation is so anxious and solicitous to see that the people of the countries in Europe which have been overrun by the Fascist powers are fed properly and reinstated in their old condition, may I ask what these United Nations were doing when behind the firing line millions of my countrymen

[Mr Abdul Qayyum] died in Bengal through sheer starvation, and food could not be taken to them because of the incapacity and utter bankruptcy of statesmanship which was shown by the Government in power in this country. Sir, I want to make sure that freedom from hunger will really mean freedom from hunger for the people of India and not only for the chosen Anglo-Saxon race in England and the United States, because that is the sort of idea which these people have when they talk of freedom from hunger. We want freedom from hunger not to share the fate of our fight for democracy, which means democracy for the west and slavery and serfdom for the 400 million people of this country. Sir, the Government of India will probably come forward with a demand that we should make a contribution to this organisation as well. I know we are told that we must accept the constitution as it is, that we cannot amend it and we must take it or leave it, we understand all that perfectly well. But if the Government of India were a Government responsible to the people, we would have waived our objection and would not have demanded that whatever amount we have to subscribe to the budget of this international organisation should be subject to the vote of the Legislature. But constituted as it is, we demand from the Government of India that for whatever contributions we have to make to this international organisation for food and agricultural products, the Government of India must come before this House and demand a vote of approval before they begin to squander our money on international organisations. We will then be in a position to judge whether this organisation is doing something really good and useful and that by contributing something we will have better production, more area under crops, more fertilisers and that people will be absolutely free from hunger.

Mr. President (The Honorable Sir Abdur Rahim) The Honorable Member has one minute more.

Mr. Abdul Qayyum: I am finishing, Sir.

Sir with these warnings and with the request that the criticism and observations made by the Opposition should be conveyed to this organisation and that the international organisation should be particularly asked to examine the credentials of this Government, whether it is a civilised Government and can therefore be entitled to sit in terms of equality with other nations, I support the motion.

The Assembly then adjourned for Lunch till Half Past Two of the Clock.

The Assembly re-assembled after Lunch at Half Past Two of the Clock, Nawabzada Muhammad Laqat Ali Khan (One of the Panel of Chairmen) in the Chair.

Pandit Nilakantha Das (Orissa Division Non-Mahomedan) Sir, the Honorable the Mover of the motion gave us a very nice picture of what happened in the Conference at Hot Springs. He has given the information that our Agent General represented India at the Conference and India was one of the 14 or 15 nations. It is very gratifying to hear all that on the floor of this House, particularly so in the case of India because it satisfies the vanity of our people who are dependent and who somehow want to become independent and be counted as one of the nations of the world. But, I think, after my Honourable friend, Mr. Neogy, has nicked the bubble, my Honourable friend Mr. Tyson must look back and think what undertaking he should give in order to convince the Honourable Members like Mr. Neogy.

Sir, I must confess that I have no access to any other report, such as the report of the Agent-General, Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai, except this report given to us. When I read this Report I suspected that there was some fly in the ointment. It is only natural that I first referred to the portion relating to percentage of contribution to this Organisation. I found that 25 per cent of the contribution will go to the United States of America, 15 per cent to England. Next comes Russia—with its vast agricultural area from Moscow to Samarkand and from Kiev to Vladivostok and with its population of 17 crores—only 8 per cent. Then comes China, which has to feed 44 crores.—

only 6 per cent. India comes next and its share is 4.25 per cent. and yet it is perhaps the only agricultural country in the British Empire with such vast agricultural lands and its teeming population. One would naturally ask the question, what is behind this scheme? It is generally known and apprehended that these countries—England and the United States of America—want to capture markets like India in the post-war period. In so far as this Organization is concerned, America has some claim to be called an agricultural country, but what claim has England to be counted as one of the agricultural countries? What do they produce except perhaps manufacturing some pearl barley and Vitamin tablets, and such other things? Or, is it a charity to the world or to Empire countries? Why should England pay 15 per cent? If there was anything real in the Conference, India, China and Russia, should have been asked to pay perhaps more than half. Therefore, I say, what is it, if not to exploit, as my Honourable friend Mr. Neogy has said, countries like India and to capture our markets and raw materials? There is certainly something behind it. Anyone would suspect that I think the entire Organization should be ours. England should have a very insignificant place in it. The House has a right to get from the Honourable Member a definite statement and undertaking that India will join the Organization only for the good of its own people. We want this because we suspect that there is something behind this move. Perhaps, say, there will come a programme for co-operative farming, and thus a necessity will be created for thousands of tractors of which India has none. They will be offered to us, and all this is besides our raw materials to be exploited as my Honourable friend, Mr. Neogy, has said. Then again, say, artificial fertilizers, which India does not produce and for which India possesses no machinery, may be recommended and these may be readily exported from England because food production must go on. There may be many things on those lines that England may, in the post-war period, produce and sell such products to this country. So, the undertaking should be definite and it should be given on the floor of this House that there is no such idea behind this organization, and if we are to accept any such idea or proposal involving exploitation ever comes up, India will be entitled to revolt and cease to remain a member. This is the economic aspect of the question.

There is another aspect—the constitutional aspect—and the Government of India must go into it carefully. Government is going to get our recommendation to accept the Constitution of this Organization. What will be the good if it proves to be only a pamphleteering organization, a 'tract' society—like the Christian Tract Society of Madras—so far as India is concerned? Some tracts will come, some instructions will come and some expert advice that will be issued from the Central Organisation. They will probably be translated into all the Vernaculars and sent out from Delhi so that the agriculturists in provinces may read. What else can it be if a Centre has to struggle with so many autonomous Provinces? You must here again give us a definite statement and undertaking that this present arrangement of Centre and Provinces must change so far at least as agriculture is concerned. But if it remains, that is, if provinces remain autonomous in their activity, as they are now, then before coming here, the Government of India must have been assured of entire provincial support. But as in the case of the Hindu Succession, so in the case of this food production we are beginning at the wrong end. How can you put this food scheme into operation? There is your land system. Can you do anything here in the Centre with regard to the land system? There is the food problem. But the rivers are not only provincial, but inter-provincial. Then there is also the standard consumption for all people of India. Here in India, Orissa with its 13 ounces of consumption of foodgrains per head per day is a surplus province and Bengal with 19 ounces foodgrain consumption is a deficit province, and there are the Central Provinces whose consumption is 30 ounces per head per day. How can you equalize? How can you come to an equitable standard for all? You cannot do it here in the Centre. Though you have taken advantage of some amendment in the Constitution, let in solving Food problem, still Orissa is there with its 13 ounces and the Central Provinces with their 30 ounces. Yet in solving the food problem in any how,

[Pandit Nilakantha Das]

on account of the war time emergency, you have made provinces agree to your direction and control, only temporarily though it be, by some statutory provision. We should like to know whether there will be any such statutory provision on a permanent basis in the case of food production and agriculture. This question you will have to answer, for this is a subject which is provincial. In such questions you cannot do anything without statutory powers of direction and control in the provincial field. I shall give you an instance.

The Government of India is out to provide for the Grow More Food campaign. Crores are being spent on it. What is being done? If we ask questions here, in reply we are given some statistics, of lakhs of acres more under cultivation. But the high price is there. It has gone up by 500 per cent and you know that every cultivator under these conditions will scratch and plough even the sandy river beds and grazing slopes of hills. If you calculate all this and tell us that there is a great increase, we are really helpless. But the fact is not as you say. I know how these things are working in the provinces. I speak from experience. The money is simply squandered, and wasted. In one case the seed was to be distributed. The workers of course had been appointed. However fine paddy for seed, made into rice, was sold in the market and the profits were divided between the cultivator and the worker. This is what is being done everywhere. It is not a rare case in my province. If this be the arrangement then what is the good of asking us to accept this? Shall we only read pamphlets in our vernacular? What else shall we do with this acceptance? I request the Honourable Member therefore to give us an undertaking. Either the Provinces should be statutorily made to agree to the control and direction of the Centre in matters relating to agriculture or that the Government will be more unitary in the next constitution than it has been.

Mr. Chairman (Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan) The Honourable Member's time is up.

Pandit Nilakantha Das: So I wish to make these two points—one, the economic and the other the constitutional. But I know the whole House is going to support the motion as it is here and now and I cannot oppose it.

Mr. Chairman (Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan) Mr. Joshi.

Mr. N. M. Joshi (Nominated Non-Official) Mr. Chairman, I have great pleasure in supporting the Resolution that this House approves of the constitution of the permanent food and agricultural organisation of the United Nations. I feel sure that India, both as a member of the International world and in its own interest should join this international organisation. It is a wrong thing for us to create or build up a wall around us and believe that we have nothing to do with the outside world. Although we may like to remain enclosed within our walls, the world is not going to allow us to do that. They will break through the wall and if we will not co-operate with the world they will secure our co-operation by force. I will appeal both in the interests of the good of the world as well as in our own interest that we should join this organisation.

The object of this organisation is to secure international co-operation in the matter of production, consumption and distribution of food. I feel that India is likely to gain a great deal if it co-operates with this organisation. We have been discussing the problems of food in all its aspects in this Session, and it is clear to us that we have to make a great deal of progress both as regards the production of food as well as its distribution. We are quite willing to consume whatever we produce but our system of production is faulty, we are not producing half as much from our land as other people are producing. Our distribution of food is also faulty as we have seen for the last two years. I therefore feel that we shall gain a great deal if we join this organisation and we shall also help the people in other parts of the world. It is necessary even in our own interest, if our work is to be done efficiently if our agriculture is to prosper, that we should join in this experiment of pooling together the knowledge of all countries on the subject of agriculture. Similarly we should

do everything to co-operate with the other parts of the world in securing the efficiency of production, distribution and consumption in agriculture.

Sir, I agree with my Honourable friend, Mr Neogy, that the Government of India should not join merely formally this organisation, send delegations there, and afterwards not give effect to the recommendations and resolutions and decisions of these bodies. Sir, I have taken some part in some of the international conference (labour conferences) and my experience is that our delegations go to these conferences and when they come home and the decisions are considered, generally they plead that India is a backward country and the decisions cannot be given effect to. My suggestion to the Government of India is that henceforth they should give up this inferiority complex and give up telling not only us here but the international world that India is a backward country and India cannot give effect to the decisions of these international bodies. India may have been a backward country but India is not willing to be a backward country. Therefore I would like the Government of India to come to a decision that India is no longer to be a backward country and if Indian delegations going to foreign countries should hereafter feel that they belong to a backward country and therefore the international conference decisions cannot be accepted by India, I am sure this House will not approve of Government's action, because we are not willing to remain a backward country, whatever may be the view of the Government of India. Let us therefore join this organisation but let us also make up our mind that we shall co-operate with the world by giving effect to the decisions of these conferences. Whatever may have been our deficiencies in the past, we are not willing to allow these deficiencies to remain any longer.

I am glad, Sir, that the Constitution provides for the setting up of regional organisations and regional conferences also. The world is a big world and although I am in favour of Indian delegations taking part in international conferences, I have no doubt that there are special problems which must be considered regionally, because all these problems do not arise in the same way in all parts of the world. Therefore I feel that the Government of India should promote through their own delegations the establishment of regional organisations and regional conferences. Many times in the Labour Conferences we have found that our delegations did not take part and did not feel interested in some of the subjects, because they felt that some of the problems discussed did not affect our conditions in Asia. Sir, personally, I feel there are very few subjects which are not common to all parts of the world but I also admit that there are some subjects, in which the Asiatic countries can have a special conference and discuss their special problems. I therefore suggest to the Government of India that they should, in order that India should get the utmost advantage out of this organisation, try to secure the establishment of regional organisations and also from now on work to see that these regional conferences are held, whether the war ends or not early. Last year's International Labour Conference has decided to hold a Regional Labour Conference and I am perfectly in agreement with that idea. The Government of India also should see from now on that such regional conferences are held and also a regional organisation established. I also suggest to the Government of India, on the analogy of the International Labour Organisation, that they should see that an office of that organisation is established in India. We have an office of the International Labour Organisation in New Delhi and I have no doubt that that office is doing a very useful work in spreading the knowledge of the International Labour Organisation among the people of this country. So I also suggest to the Government of India that they should take steps to see that this international organisation sets up an office in India.

When I spoke last time on this subject, the UNRRA organisation, I suggested to the Government of India that they should from now on be vigilant and see that India's representatives are appointed on the staff of these organisations. If the Government of India, as usual, is late, all the important posts will be filled in by the nationals of other countries. To my great regret, Sir, when the International Labour Organisation was started and also when the League of Nations was started, our Government was found sleeping. For

[Mr N M Joshi]

several years they made no effort at all to see that Indians were appointed on both the staff of the League of Nations and the International Labour Organisation. I do not want the Government of India to be sleeping now. When I made enquiries at that time as to why Indians were not appointed in important posts, I was told that all the posts were filled and whatever posts were to be filled were small and unimportant posts. I do not want that to happen again. If India is going to join this organisation from the very beginning, I would like the Government of India to see that Indians get important posts in this organisation.

One word more. When I spoke last time I also spoke about the delegations and while I am speaking on this matter, I would like my colleagues in this Assembly not to misunderstand me. I had suggested last time that the personnel of these delegations should be entirely Indian and let me make it quite clear that I am not speaking this from a racial point of view. I am not anti-British but I have found by experience that when an Indian delegation includes Europeans a misunderstanding is created in the minds of the representatives of other countries. They feel that although there may be one Britisher, that Britisher is appointed there to dominate the whole delegation. That is the misunderstanding that is created in the minds of other nationals. I therefore suggest to the Government of India that when they appoint delegations, such delegations should entirely consist of Indians and not give any justification for the representatives of other countries to misunderstand us.

These are the suggestions which I wanted to make on this subject and I hope the Government of India will take note of them. I feel that if my suggestions are accepted by the Government of India and if we take part in this organisation whole-heartedly, India will gain a great deal by joining this organisation. Sir, I support the Resolution that we do approve of the constitution and regulations of this organisation.

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Guntur *cum* Nellore Non-Muhammadian Rural). Mr Chairman, I rise to support this motion subject to the amendment that I have suggested. I am glad to learn that my amendment is acceptable to the Government also.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Which amendment?

Prof. N. G. Ranga: The amendment which was moved yesterday to the effect that this House trusts that this body will work in the interests of peasants no less than those of the consumers. The Congress Party extends its support to this motion not without any misgivings. It is because the Indian National Congress and all patriots in this country are anxious not to be isolated from the rest of the world and also are anxious to be in the centre of all international gatherings and international discussions that we are willing to accord our support to this motion. But, at the same time, we cannot be blind to certain facts. When the Bretton Woods Conference was held and the World Monetary Organisation was brought into existence, India was denied her rightful place on the Executive Committee mostly because India happened to be a member of this blessed British Empire. And we have had bitter experience of our part in the League of Nations as well as the International Labour Conference. It was not possible for India to pull her full weight in those organisations because of the subject condition in which she finds herself. Where is the guarantee that when this world food and agricultural organisation is brought into existence, India will be accorded the place she deserves because of her production, because of her numbers and of her ability also to consume food that is produced in India as well as in the rest of the world? Especially so long as this Government continues, we feel that there can be no guarantee whatever for India achieving her rightful place in this organisation.

Then, if we look into the history or the genesis of this conference—the Hot Springs Conference—and its organisation and its proposed constitution, you will find it was not conceived primarily in the interests of the producers. My

honourable friend Mr Joshi was so very keen that this organisation should really be as much interested in the consumers as in the producers.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Not only for producers, but for all

Prof. N. G. Ranga: But when my Honourable friend was supporting the International Labour Office, he did not make much of an attempt to come to this House and say that the International Labour Office should work not only in the interests of labour but also in the interests of the employers.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: It is for labour

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Yes, quite right, I want an organisation like this, not for any other interests in this world but for the sake of the producers to start with. If this organisation, as we find it today, was not conceived of primarily or solely in the interests of the producers, I charge this Government of India for its failure in having brought into existence a world organisation which will be solely interested in the welfare of the producers. It is the fault of this Government that it has not taken any initiative in regard to this international question. It was because President Roosevelt thought of the food needs of his people and Mr Churchill agreed with him and also because he also thought of the food needs of his people in England, that this Hot Springs Conference was convened. It was up to the Government of India which can really claim to have biggest research organisation so far as agriculture is concerned in all these so-called colonial countries—the African countries and this country and China—although I am not satisfied with the effort they have so far made, it was the duty of this Government to have taken the initiative and convened a conference of all those who were interested in agriculture and in agricultural production and to have tried to bring into existence a world organisation of agricultural producers. But this Government has failed.

I am not sorry that anyhow it has gone to the Hot Springs Conference. We must go into these international conferences for this reason, not so much because we hope to gain as great a place as we deserve, but because we must be there in order to see what game the others are up to. We know that so far as this conference was concerned it was not convened in the interests of producers, it was convened in the interests of the consumer. Let not my friends begin to feel that they were thinking of the consumers in this country, that the people, Churchill and Roosevelt, were thinking of the hundreds of millions of consumers of India or of China. No. They were thinking of the consumers in the industrial countries of the west—America and the European countries, and they know very well that their people were not in a position to produce as much and as many agricultural products as are needed for the maintenance of their industrial system. They want cotton, they want rayon, they want jute and so many other things also which are essential for the continuation, and for the prosperity of their industrial system in those countries. They want to assure themselves of cheaper supplies of these commodities, they have been getting cheaper supplies of all these things. The terms of trade have always gone against these agricultural countries when compared with industrial countries. Industrial countries have been able to monopolise and dominate the world markets and dictate what prices should be paid for their industrial goods by the agricultural peoples, and what low prices should be paid to the producers of these agricultural countries. They want to continue this exploitation even after the war. They know that as a matter of fact most of these agricultural countries have grown out of the stage of debtor countries and have now almost become creditor countries. India has become a creditor country to England, so is the case with Argentina, Brazil, Mexico, and therefore they are afraid that once the war is over these newly begotten creditor countries in the agricultural parts of the world may be able to combine among themselves and begin to dictate their own terms of trade and begin to have their own commodity pools and decide what prices should be paid for their commodities as opposed to the prices that are being charged for industrial goods. Therefore it was in the interests of the western powers that this conference was conceived of and they

[Prof N G Ranga] wanted to have this organisation in order to prevent any sort of development on the part of all these agricultural peoples and agricultural countries and their agricultural producers to demand that decent and reasonable prices should be paid for their commodities in exchange for their industrial commodities. It is in the interests of this country to see that this sort of game of the western countries is not allowed, is not permitted.

We know that we will be a party to this conference. We were a party to this conference and we will be a party to this constitution, but at the same time let us remember that we cannot commit ourselves to this we cannot agree—we cannot go the whole way with my Honourable friends, Mr Neogy and Mr Joshi, when they say that the most important recommendations of this conference should necessarily be accepted by the Government of India. We hope that very soon this Government may be replaced by a more agreeable and a more acceptable and a more representative Government, and we want that Government to be able to stand up for the rights of our agricultural producers. We do not want to tie them down by their hands and feet and say "Look here, whatever may be decided upon in that conference you must agree to accept and ratify their recommendations." Beware, that conference was not conceived in our interests and that organisation is not likely to work for the interests of the producers only.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: I have said that these recommendations may be approved by the Legislature—that is what my amendment says.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: I see your point, but I cannot agree and for this reason. When we get a responsible Government here, there is no need for us to tell that responsible Government that they should consult the Legislature. It is bound to consult its Legislature and it will consult its Legislature. It will not be like this Government going about in a shameless manner without coming to this Legislature, doing everything stealthily, doing things somewhat in this fashion—sleeping all along and somebody wakes up all of a sudden and writes something to the effect that under such and such regulation or sub-clause of a regulation or under the Defence of India Act something must be done, and things like that. That is why I say that that amendment need not be accepted.

Then I come to the other point. My Honourable friend Mr Joshi was suggesting that regional conferences should be organised. I agree with him. I would go further and suggest that this Government should take immediate initiative and immediate action to convene a conference of these agricultural producers' countries and bringing into existence a definite organisation to work for the benefit of all these agricultural peoples as apart from this sort of cosmopolitan organisation that is going to be brought into existence. This will not hearten or satisfy our agriculturists, we know it is intended solely for the benefit of the industrial countries, and we want a separate organisation for them. The sooner the Government of India acts in this direction the better it will be for the people of this country as well as for itself.

Then, Sir, there is the question of delegation. My Honourable friend Mr Joshi wants Indian personnel. I quite agree but does it go far enough. It may be Indian personnel but what are the instructions to be given to it. This Government sent Sir G. S. Bajpai to Ceylon and Burma and what sort of an agreement did he bring us? My Honourable friend was saying that we should be very happy to have a distinguished Indian of this kind as the Chairman. We want our Indian personnel to go out with a clear instrument of instructions as to what particular class of people are to be served, in what manner they are to be served and to what extent the Government of India is prepared to back their activities in the Conference. Therefore the most important thing is the instrument of instructions and in regard to that I suggest to this Government of India that whenever these conferences are going to be held, the Government of India should come to this Legislature in advance of their Session and consult

this Legislature as to the instrument of instructions that ought to be given to their delegation

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Salt (West Coast and Nilgiris Muhammadan). It is not in your amendment

Prof. N. G. Ranga: If I put all that in my amendment, I do not know whether my Honourable friend will be willing to support it.

We know that industrial countries put a sort of vengeur of their love of science, progress and advancement, whenever they think of doing anything for their own interests. They were framing the Atlantic Charter, while they were really thinking of getting access to all the raw materials in all these Colonial countries without any sort of hindrance at the end of the war. Are we going to place ourselves at the disposal of these eagles and wolves of the West? Are we going to allow our raw produce to be taken away at prices which are below world's price parity? Are we going to allow this to be done, as has happened in the case of jute? Certainly not. We must insist on examining every proposal that comes from the West with special care. What did they do in regard to cotton? Lancashire wanted cotton. They wanted India to grow cotton so that Lancashire may be benefited, and American cotton may be got by England on their own terms. Therefore Lancashire sent down some experts at that time. There is no cotton grown in England and so they brought some experts from America and they made certain experiments in India. That was nearly 90 years ago. They failed. During the last war the Central Cotton Committee was appointed. Later on the permanent committee came to be established as a permanent body. In whose interest? In the interest of Lancashire, because Lancashire was in need of long staple cotton.

Mr. Chairman (Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan). The Honourable Member has one minute more.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Therefore they appear as great lovers of science. For whose benefit? For the benefit of the West. They want better nutrition for the Western people, more food for the Western people, full employment for the Western people and they also want for their own people the scientific organisation of agriculture, co-operative cultivation, better agricultural production and so on, all for the sake of getting cheaper and cheaper supply of our agricultural raw produce. I have no objection to our country taking the fullest advantage of science, so that our own people may have more to eat, more efficient production, better prices for their produce and decent wages for our agricultural workers. Our aim should be to do all we can to better the lot of our 380 millions of people. It is not mere selfishness or parochialism to think in these terms. These 380 millions of people can form a world problem. Nobody need be ashamed if he thinks in terms of these 380 millions of people. Therefore I associate myself and my Party with this motion subject to that amendment and subject also to the fears and reservations I have expressed and also to what was said by Mr. B. Das and Mr. Abdul Qaiyum.

Mr. Lalchand Navalkar (Sind Non-Muhammadan Rural). I must assure the Chair that I had no intention of speaking on this Resolution but I rose to speak on account of the reasons which I am going to give you. I was given to understand that this is one of the international *tamashas* which achieve nothing. On the other side, many Members got up to speak and they said 'we accept the constitution'. On one side we have precedents where these international organisations have done us harm. I was therefore wondering why most of these Members accept this constitution. When I went into the reasons, I found that what they said was this: What shall we get from this unless and until we have our own Government,—not a Government which will only act under the orders of the British Government? They were thinking of these famines and other things and saying that this Government has not given us any help.

As regards the first point, take the question of the League of Nations which was started to avoid all wars. It is an organisation to which some of the representatives of India were also sent. What happened? The League has gone

[Mr. Lalchand Navalrai]

phat At the Treaty of Versailles, Germany got disappointed and dissatisfied and it left the League of Nations. Then other nations left until the League was nowhere. Such an international organisation did not bring any good. Rather the good is that these wars have come up. These countries are not being deterred by other nations, on the contrary, all these other nations get into it. The British Government also wants to get us into it. The result of such a war is what everybody knows. What horrible misfortunes we have been suffering on account of this war. We have no food and there is rationing and we know its effects. Then, we know what ravages the famine did in Bengal and how have the people died there. If the other nations can do any good to India and with that object this Constitution is going to be accepted, may I ask what have they done in the present situation of this country? Have any nations come forward to say that as India is suffering from famine, they will come forward and help us? No. When they have shown no sympathy with us, how are we going to accept this constitution? Our present Government is, of course, under the orders of the British Government and is not independent at all. They themselves say that their masters are the British people and the British Government. That being the case, if any international organisation decides to take certain steps for the welfare of agriculture or industry, what will the British Government think? Whatever the British Government has done for us up to this time, we all know. And they cannot do anything for us because their interests are at stake. Will they give up all this exploitation? Of course, it is the Divine hand that has made them undergo all these misfortunes on account of this war, but they still wish to exploit India. Have we got the least independence in joining an international organisation? None. Therefore, it is better that we should not join any such organisation. But they have not given us any hope there either. Professor Ranga was very eloquent in saying that we are going to get independence and we are going to get our national Government. First of all, you have to bring out these people from the jail.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: You will also help us to get them out.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: You will get them on the day of resurrection. Therefore, I submit that if the majority is for the acceptance of such an international organisation they will succeed and our opinion may also go with them. After all, the majority can consider these things better than the minority. At any rate we must have some safeguards. And what are the safeguards that you are going to have under this constitution? We have seen that the habit of this Government is to bring Resolutions such as, the present situation in India be considered or the food situation in India be considered. Now, what is the present Resolution? I heard the Honourable Mover of this motion say that he did not care whether this House accepts this constitution or not.

Mr. J. D. Tyson (Secretary, Department of Education, Health and Lands) Sir, I should like to make it perfectly clear that that was not the intention of my remark.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Then, what did the Honourable Member say?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I said that we cannot from this House alter the constitution. We can approve the constitution and join the Organisation. But if we do not like the constitution, then all we can do is to stay out. That is what I said.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Anyway, it is quite plain that we have got to say that a certain constitution that was made at the Hot Springs Conference should be accepted or not accepted by this House. Now, were we a party to that conference? If we were, were we represented there in a democratic manner? No. It is again the British Government that was there and they will be the first person to accept this Resolution. After all is said and done, I can only say this that it is nothing but international fund that is going on in this House. Considering both sides, I have come to the conclusion that, after all, we have

suffered very much at the hands of the British Government and their subordinate Government here. Let us try them once more. If they can change their mentality and get up and say "We are, after all, the representatives of the people of India and we will become now stronger than what we have been in the past, and we will make it clear to the British Government that they can no more tangle with the people of India",—if they get that courage, they can do a lot for this country.

Then, Sir, we have got two amendments to this Resolution. One is by Prof. Ranga and the other by Mr. Neogy. They say that whatever this international organisation does, their recommendations should be subject to the vote of this House. We agree with these amendments.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman (Patna and Chota Nagpur *cum* Orissa Muhammadan). Sir, I support the Resolution in principle, but I would like to draw the attention of the House to the particular amendment which has been moved by my Honorable friend Mr. Neogy and which is the real crux of the whole question. Without that amendment, practically we do not acquire that status which will enable us to be a party to the organisation which is there and for which this Resolution has been moved. I need not read the amendment but I would read the Conference's Chairman's recommendation which says

"We are telling our respective Governments that they should be entirely free to use their will through their own people as constitutionally expressed."

For the working of this Resolution this is absolutely necessary.

The other point which I have to bring out is this—what is this Conference? It came into existence after the Atlantic Charter and the impression was given that this international organisation was to implement the important clauses of that Charter. We find clauses 4 and 6 are definitely included, and the fifth clause is only incidentally mentioned. I need not read at length these clauses because they were very ably dealt with by Mr. Neogy. I do not want to weary the House by repeating the same. The most significant omission is the omission of clause 3 of that Charter to which no reference has been made in the conference and no indication was given whether it was proposed to implement that clause or not. Clause 3 of the Atlantic Charter says they respect the right of all peoples to choose the form of government under which they will live and they wish to see sovereign rights and self-government restored to those who have been forcibly deprived of them. This is definite and clear in its own significance. This very clause gives us encouragement to say that we have every right to demand self-Government on the lines of Pakistan, as the Muslim League has been demanding. It is the will of the people of a country, it is the right of the population inhabiting that part of the country to choose their own form of Government, to have sovereign rights in their own territory. In my opinion, this is a necessary inference to that clause and this should have been implemented by including it in the Resolution of this Conference and of this Organisation which has been brought into existence. That is one of the most important points which I wish to bring to the notice of the House.

The other point is not particularly relevant to the subject matter of the Resolution now under discussion, but this point is certainly relevant so far as it serves as a warning to the Government.

Mr. Chairman (Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan). The point should be relevant to the subject under discussion, otherwise it cannot be referred to.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: It is relevant in this sense. This is an international organisation. We, Muslims, feel that somehow or other the Government always avoided nominating or selecting or electing for the matter of that, any Muslim representative to the international organisations. Even to the Economic delegation that was sent to Bretton Woods, no Muslim was included. In the other international organisations and conferences—Labour and others—the same thing happened. No Muslim was sent. Probably there is a sinister motive behind this wanton disregard of Muslim feeling. I think it is probably

[Mr Muhammad Nauman]

to give the impression at the international conferences and to other people in the world that India has not got sufficient number of capable Muslims who could represent this country from amongst the Muslim nation, whom I have the privilege to represent in this House

Babu Baijnath Bajona (Marwari Association Indian Commerce) The Honourable Member's name is certainly in the waiting list

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: I am glad that my Honourable friend assures me that my name is in the waiting list. I may have been there all right, but instead of being in the waiting list, I want the thing to come about. This is the only point which I want to impress on the Government. As I said, there is not much to talk about on the principle underlying this Resolution. My Honourable friends have dealt with the subject exhaustively and I do not want to traverse the same ground. Once again, I wish to warn the Government that in selecting the personnel of the international delegations, there should be no deliberate attempt to exclude Muslims as the Government have been doing in the past. My opinion is that clause 3 of the Atlantic Charter is quite significant and it should have been implemented in the decisions of the Conference. This clause gives to the Muslims the right to claim Pakistan and achieve it,—the right to choose our own form of Government.

An Honourable Member: The question be now put

Mr. Chairman (Nawabzada Muhammad Ishaq Ali Khan) The question is—
“That the question be now put”
The Assembly divided

AYES—40

Ahmad Nawaz Khan, Major Nawab Sir
Anbedkar, The Honourable Dr B R
Azizul Huque, The Honourable Sir M
Bentall, The Honourable Sir Edward
Bhagchand Soni, Rai Bahadur Sir Seth.
Caree, Sir Olaf
Chatterjee Lt-Col Dr J C
Daga Seth Sunder Lall
Dalsi Dr Sir Ratanji Dinshaw
Dalpat Singh, Sardar Bahadur Captain
Griffiths, Mr P J
Gwillt, Mr E L C
Haidar, Khan Bahadur Shamsuddin
Ismail Alikhan, Kunwer Hajee
James, Sir F E
Jawahar Singh, Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sir
Joshi, Mr D
Kamaluddin Ahmad Shams-ul-Ulema
Khare, The Honourable Dr N B
Krishnamoorthy, Mr E S A
Kushal Pal Singh, Raja Bahadur

Lawson, Mr C P
Miller, Mr C C
Muazzam Sahib Bahadur, Mr Muhammad
Mudalhar, The Honourable Dewan Bahadur
Sir A Ramaswami
Mudie, The Honourable Sir Francis
Puro Lall Kuresl, Mr
Risman, The Honourable Sir Jeremy
Richardson, Sir Henry
Roy, The Honourable Sir Asoka
Shoobert, Mr W H
Spence Sir George
Srivastava, The Honourable Sir Jwala
Prasad
Stokes, Mr H G
Sultan Ahmed, The Honourable Sir
Thakur Singh, Capt
Trivedi, Mr C M
Tyson, Mr J D
Vaidyanathan, Mr L S
Zahid Hussain, Mr

NOES—40

Abdul Qaiyum, Mr
Abdullah, Mr H M
Azhar Ali, Mr Muhammad
Bajona, Babu Baijnath
Banerjee, Dr P N
Chailha Mr Kuladhar,
Chattopadhyaya, Mr Amarendra Nath.
Chettiar, Mr T S Avinashlingam
Chetty, Mr Sami Vencatachelam
Chunder, Mr N C
Daga, Seth Sheodass
Dam, Mr Ananga Mohan
Das, Mr B
Das, Pandit Nilakantha
Debnukh, Mr Govind V
Eesak Sait, Mr H A Sathar H.
Fasil-i-Haq, Piracha, Khan Bahadur Shaikh
Gauri Shankar Singh, Mr
Gupta, Mr K S
Gupta, Mr R. R.

Hegde, Sri K B Jinaraja,
Hosmani, Mr S K
Joshi, Mr N M
Kailash Bihari Lall, Mr
Krishnamachari, Mr T T
Lahuri Chaudhury, Mr D K
Lakkichand, Mr Rajmal
Lalchand Navalrai, Mr
Mastra, Pandit Lakshmi Kanta
Mitra, Pandit Shambhudayal
Nauman Mr Muhammad
Neogy, Mr K C
Ranga, Prof N G
Sham Lal, Lala
Siddique Ali Khan, Nawab
Sinha, Mr Satya Narayan
Sri Prakasa, Mr
Srivastava, Mr Hari Sharan
Subbarayan, Shrimati K Radha Bai.
Zafar Ali Khan, Maulana

Mr. Chairman (Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan) As there is a vote the Chair has to give its vote I vote for the Noes.

The motion is negatived

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh (Nagpur Division Non-Muhammadan) Sir, I think we have to make up our mind as to whether we will join or not join We must remember that if we join this organisation we cannot get out of membership for four years, and so if we join we must do it with our eyes open There is one thing which might influence some people to vote for joining it, and that is that India is a deficit country where we are suffering from famine and scarcity, and by joining this we shall get some relief But we must at the same time remember what this organisation wants us to do Will the organisation help us or does it want every country to help itself? From the papers we will find that in every way, whether it is a case of nutrition of the citizens of a particular country or whether it is supplying credit to any country to help the agriculturists or to improve co-operation among agriculturists, the country itself has to do it. On page 51, with regard to long-term production policy, preamble 3 says that in order to secure this result producers should receive a fair return for their products—as my friend Prof Ranga wanted And preamble 5 says that it is desirable to formulate a body of principles which are applicable to agricultural policy in appropriate form to all countries But who is to do this? Even as regards subsidiary industries the burden is on each and every country to help its own countrymen For instance, on page 59 you find a recommendation that the Governments and authorities there represented accept the responsibility of making it possible, so far as it is within their power, for each person in their respective countries to have an adequate diet and improve his diet in the direction of obtaining the physiological requirements of health, etc So it is the particular country which has to look after the nutrition and sustenance of its citizens and the organisation will not help Similarly in the case of supplying credits for the purpose of developing industries suitable to the area, it is that particular country which has to do it The recommendation in regard to that says that areas which have a large agricultural population in relation to their agricultural resources should develop industries suitable to the area Again there the responsibility is of the member country So, Sir, what particular advantage do we derive for the money we will pay by being a member of this Organization?

Mr. J. D. Tyson. Will the Honourable Member tell the House how any other country can develop India's industries?

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: I am merely saying that we are going to pay an amount and so what return shall we get? I have not yet said anything as to whether we should or we should not join this Organization I have said that we must make up our mind about it The problem before us is to join or not to join this Organization and so let us consider the circumstances as they are before us What is it that would induce any person to join this Organization? There may be some persons who may say that we are a deficit province and it is quite probable that other countries may help But the primary responsibility has been thrown on the member countries to develop their own agriculture, to find out co-operative credit, marketing facilities, to develop subsidiary industries, and everything. So some persons may be under the misapprehension that by being a member of this Organization we will be able to get some succour or help from other members That is my point Then what is it that is going to prompt us to join this organization, if we are not going to get any help? My Honourable friend Mr Ranga has moved an amendment that in the interest of producers, no less than in the interest of consumers, the Organization should exert itself It will be found, if my Honourable friends were to go through the Constitution—the constitution says that if it is in the interest of producers as well as consumers, they say 'we shall have to restrict profits,' and they say, 'we shall do away with the policy of monopoly of consumers or producers', and so on—it will be found that we are not by this amendment getting anything new.

[Mr Govind V Deshmukh]

Then, does it mean that we should not join this? I am inclined to say, join this movement, and I suppose the Honourable the Mover of the motion will be glad to know that I recommend that India should join

Mr. J. D. Tyson: Very glad indeed!

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: There are reasons why I am recommending that we should join, there are two reasons. First of all, we are brought up in traditions which make us consider that the whole universe is one family. So if that sentiment is going to promote the welfare of other countries who are going to be a part of this family, I would not mind it. That is one consideration. The other consideration is what my Honourable friend, Mr. Neogy, has suggested in his amendment. Let the world know what our attitude is. The sole purpose of this amendment is that the Government of India should know what it has to do and it should also place this view before the Organization, not that this view is going to make any difference so far as any amendment in the Constitution is concerned because the Constitution cannot be changed unless there is a majority of 2/3rd. If you were to go through the list of member countries, you will come across not more than ten—as a matter of fact it is less than 10—nations which are what one may call the coloured races, or non-European countries, non-American countries. Therefore, so far as the question of carrying out a modification of any Convention or deciding any proposal is concerned, the majority will be always on the other side and not on our side. But, all the same, as I have said, I am prepared to support Mr. Neogy's amendment and I do not see any reason why Government should oppose this amendment we understand each other. It is not in our power to modify the Constitution when we join it nor do we emphasise that Government is in a position to do it. But let there be this understanding between us that although the Constitution may not be modified, this Assembly will be in a position to review the work of this Organization. Otherwise we bind ourselves for four years to pay a particular sum without getting an opportunity to review the work which will be done by this Organization. If we did that, we would be entering this Organization blindfold. Government should give us an opportunity to criticize what is going on in this Organization, to review the work of those who would be administering this body and our own representative on it. It is for these objects that we are moving this amendment and I do not see any reason why Government should oppose it unless it be that they wish to be irresponsible in this matter as has been pointed out by the speakers who have preceded me. When other subjects which are administered by Government and for which reports are drawn up are placed before this House for discussion and light is thrown by persons who are administering those portfolios, I do not see what reasonable objection there can be to do the same in this case also. Sir, I hope this amendment will be accepted by the Honourable Member, Mr. Tyson.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee (Calcutta Suburbs Non-Muhammadan Urban) **Mr. Chairman,** for a long time past I have been a believer as much in internationalism as in nationalism. When the League of Nations held its first meeting in Geneva in 1921 I went there to attend this meeting as a visitor. Not that I did not know what the limitations were under which the League would work nor was I satisfied with the composition of the League of Nations, but I felt interested in that institution because I thought that the progress and well-being of mankind depended on international co-operation and collaboration. Sir, we all know for what reasons the League of Nations failed to perform its duties properly and satisfactorily. I am sorry that the League has failed, but I am still hoping that there will be another world organization better constituted, more fairly representative and with functions much more enlarged which will take the place of the dying institution—the League of Nations. If I am interested in a political organization of an international character, I am as much interested in an economic organization of the world and I am glad that my Honourable friend, Mr. Tyson, has placed before us this Resolution today.

Now, Sir, what is the ultimate aim of this Organisation? The ultimate aim is to secure freedom from want for all the peoples of the world and as a **step** towards that end to secure freedom from hunger. Now it is a lamentable fact that while some people enjoy more food than is necessary or good for them, there are others who get very little food and there are millions who starve and die. In this country what has been our recent experience? Our recent experience has been that for want of food millions of people died.

Sir, what are the immediate objects of this body? The immediate objects of this body are to help the production of more food and better food and to provide for nutrition, to provide for agricultural credit, and the means adopted by them are publicity and research. All these are desirable objects and methods.

But when we come to the question of representation, I am sorry to have to say that I am not of the same opinion as my Honourable friend, the Mover of this motion. Sir, what is India's representation? India is represented by nominees of the Government on this international body. These nominees of the Government are expected to be the representatives of the people. But in reality are they the real representatives of the people? I must say that they are not and as has already been pointed out, the Indian delegation did not act as properly as they ought to have done. Therefore, Sir, I suggest that when Indian representatives are selected they should be selected after consultation with the Indian Legislature and as regards the views to be expressed by them before the meetings of this body, the conference or the executive committee, they should express the views of the Legislature and not the views of the Government of India or of the British Government.

Then again, Sir, what will become of those recommendations which are made by these international organisations? Their recommendations have, as has been pointed out before, been repudiated. Should that be done in future, those recommendations should be placed before the Legislature in order that the Legislature may give their sanction, may vary and alter and, if necessary, reject the recommendations. Sir, I am one of those who think that in the absence of full self government in this country, the Legislature represents the people of the country and it is one of the recommendations of this body that these recommendations have to be carried out according to the wishes of the peoples concerned. Therefore, every recommendation, every decision, of this international body should be placed before this Legislature and sanction of this Legislature should be obtained.

Then again, Sir, I find that we are to be represented in the conference but it is not made clear whether India is to be represented on the Executive Committee of the body. It is the Executive Committee of this body that will sit very frequently and will be responsible for carrying on the work of the Organisation. Therefore, Sir, it is desirable that India should be represented, and let us hope the Government of India will insist on India being represented, on the Executive Committee of this Organisation.

Now coming to the question of contribution, my Honourable friend, the Mover of this motion, pointed out that for the present we have to pay only Rs 3 lakhs. I do not consider that to be a very large sum but I should like to point out in this connection that the initial contribution by India to the funds of this Association is larger than that of any of the Dominions of the British Empire and is only slightly more than half of the contribution made by Russia, which is a very large country and whose population is also large. Now, India is a poor country and it should be remembered that India's contribution should not be a heavy one in future.

Sir, I have discussed some of the important points which have been raised in the course of the debate and I will end by saying that it is necessary that the two amendments which have been moved by my Honourable friend, Mr Neogy, and by my Honourable friend, Prof Ranga, should be accepted by this House. I need not say much about Mr Neogy's amendment. That

[21st Nov. 1944]

[Dr P N Banerjee] amendment speaks for itself. He asks that before the recommendations of the sessions of the International Organization are given effect to, this House should be consulted, and not only consulted but that this House should have the power to alter the recommendations or decisions, and if necessary to reject them. Prof Ranga's amendment is a harmless one. He wants to secure the interests of the producers. Now, when we say that we want to safeguard the interests of the people of India, of course it implies that the interests of the producers as well as of the consumers will be secured. Therefore, the Government should have no hesitation in accepting this amendment.

Therefore, I suggest that the Honourable the Mover of this Resolution will get the wholehearted support of this House if he agrees to accept the two amendments which have been moved. If he does, he will be acting in concert with the opinion of this House which I think is very necessary in order that an organisation like this may prove a success.

[At this stage, Mr President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) resumed the Chair.]

Mr. J. D. Tyson: Sir, it is gratifying to find that in no quarter of the House is there any disposition to take the view that India should not accept this constitution and join the proposed Organisation. I entirely agree, if I may say so, with my friend, Mr Joshi, and with Mr Chaliha, when they said that we cannot remain out of these international organisations. I think that is absolutely true, Sir, both for the moment and also looking to the future. I think there has been a strong recognition of that in every quarter of the House. India must join organisations of this kind and try to secure that her views on matters of international importance shall be heard and shall prevail. I gathered that Mr B Das was not opposed to joining the organisation but he was sceptical whether any good might come out of it. I feel tempted to remind Mr Das that it is not the sceptics and the cynics who have advanced the progress of the world but rather the idealists. He also suggested, and the suggestion has been backed by Mr Gupta and by the Leader of the Congress Nationalist Party, that India should "insist" (that is the word which the Leader of the Congress Nationalist Party used) on having representation on the Executive Committee of this body. It is very desirable that India should have such representation, not only for India's sake but in order that India's agricultural conditions, which represent a very important aspect of the agricultural conditions of Asia and of the world, should be considered by that body. I believe that India has much to contribute to that body. But, Sir, how can we insist? As I mentioned yesterday, we cannot make it a condition of our joining the organisation, because the procedure under the constitution is that the Executive Committee will be elected by the Conference, the Governing Body. We shall have on the Conference the same voting power as any other member-nation, no more, no less,—one vote. We must try to get representation by the exercise of our vote and by influencing our friends in the Conference but it is not possible for us to insist. As I say, if we were to make it a condition of joining, that would be tantamount to refusing to join the organisation.

Similarly, as regards our financial liability, Mr B Das said we should only give a token subscription. I think, however, that he appreciated that this can only be done, not as a condition of our joining but by our representative persuading the other member-nations in the Conference to agree to cut down our contribution at the time they are making their budget.

The Deputy Leader of the Congress Party, (I am sorry he is not in his seat as I wanted to reply to certain points he sought to make)—the Deputy Leader, I feel tempted to say, reminds me rather of one of those big guns on a railway mounting which is trundled out of its tunnel to do its work. It makes a big bang and then goes back into its tunnel! As I have said, I am sorry he is not here, because he made an important point this morning when he said that before the House could agree to advise acceptance of the constitution, it should be told that whatever contribution India would have to make should be made

on the authority and with the vote of the Legislature I am happy to say—and I hope it will be passed on to him—that that is our proposal. I am perfectly willing to give the assurance that this contribution will be "voted" expenditure which will come up in the Budget or it may have to come up sometimes as a Supplementary Grant but in any case it will be placed before this House.

In this connection I should mention that the nations that took part in the Hot Springs Conference were asked to make some small advance towards the Interim Commission's expenses, to keep them going. I do not wish to hide anything from the House. Along with other countries, who have done the same, the Government of India have made a small advance—I think it is \$5,000 or Rs 15,000. And this, under Article XXV of the Constitution will be deducted or set off against our contribution under the first Budget of the organisation.

Then, Sir, my friend Mr Abdul Qayyum made a somewhat novel suggestion that when the Government of India notified their acceptance of the constitution, they should express doubts to the Organisation about their own credentials for membership and invite inspection. That, Sir, is a very interesting suggestion but one with which I do not think he will expect me here and now to promise compliance!

The finance side has also been referred to by Pandit Nilakantha Das and Mr Ananga Mohan Das and both seemed to want that India should pay more to the organisation than the 4.25 per cent which it is suggested she should pay in the first year. I think the suggestion was—why should America want to pay 25 per cent and England about 10 per cent—if my memory serves me correctly—and India only 4.25 per cent? There must be some ulterior motive behind this, it is said. Well, Sir, I can tell these Honourable Members that the first assessment of contributions by the proposed member-nations was made very largely on the basis of ability to pay. There are many nations represented on the Conference which until very recently were under German occupation and some are even yet under German occupation, and ability to bear the burden was the principal criterion in arriving at these figures. There were others, of course, but that was the principal factor and as illustration of this I may instance the case of France which, ordinarily, is regarded as a wealthy nation but which has been assessed at 5.69 per cent. I am afraid that Dr Banerjee is misinformed when he says—taking the line that India is paying too much—that India was paying more than any of the Dominions, I find that Canada has been assessed at 5.6 per cent. In any case voting power is not proportionate to the contribution paid and even if we were going to pay 25 per cent as the United States are prepared to do and as perhaps Pandit Nilakantha Das would like to see us do, it might remove his suspicions but it would not give us any more voting power in the organisation. I do not think either that there is any attack intended in the constitution or in the proceedings of the Conference at Hot Springs on our raw materials,—in regard to minerals especially, we shall certainly be vigilant about that, we are in fact contemplating to suggest that questions of international trade, like more of currency, should be discussed at a separate international conference.

Mr Neogy is disappointed that I did not refer yesterday to the short term possibilities of this Organisation. I can assure him that I did not overlook these. There is much to be done and the sooner a start is made the better. We regard our own "Grow More Food" campaign as a move in the right direction for bettering nutrition, but actually what I said yesterday was directed only to differentiating this Organisation from the organisation which we call UNRRA, and I believe that what I said was something like this—"I should like to emphasise that the problem before the conference was not the organisation of war time relief or immediate post-war relief. That is the work of another organisation."

[Mr J D Tyson]

That was my point. This is not a *war relief* organisation. I am perfectly aware that we can take up the improvement of nutrition from now and that even during the war, if we receive recommendations from this body in that field, we can pursue them. Equally, I think, he was unfair to Government when he suggested that we had repudiated the attitude of our delegation in the matter of nutrition.

Mr. K. O. Neogy: Standards of nutritional food

Mr. J. D. Tyson: He quoted a passage from the First Report on the Progress of Reconstruction Planning. That passage was as follows:

"The conclusions of the Indian delegation to the Hot Springs Conference do not represent the considered views of the Government of India on the question of what targets in respect of nutrition should be accepted. They, however, afford a basis for further discussion."

But in the same paragraph from which my Honourable friend read, the authors of this pamphlet said this:

"The first and foremost aim must be to provide adequate nutrition for India's growing population."

And our attitude will also appear from the instructions that we gave to the delegation before they went to America, which I quote from their own report:

"As regards foodstuffs, we were to explain that although the standard of living in India was low, and a large part of the population suffered from faulty nutrition, the remedy lay in increased production and more scientific distribution which could be dealt with by India herself; all that she might need to import from outside would be certain types of machinery and chemical fertilizers."

What the delegation gave the conference, in their note, was certain figures of the nutritional requirements of India as a whole, drawn up some years ago by Dr Aykroyd, and I want to make it perfectly clear that their figures were drawn up for the population as a whole, for the whole population, at the time he was computing, of 350 millions. This could not in any case be true for the whole of India, because you do not get the same kind of diet eaten in all the different parts of India, and actually at the moment our nutritionists are busy working out tables on a regional basis. These will be much more informative and much more useful when we get them, but in any case I may say that the Second Report on Reconstruction Planning—the second of the series to which Mr Neogy has referred, under the heading "16—Food" gives a table of nutritional requirements, put forward as "a rough idea" of the all India targets of production, which is identical or rather is entirely based upon Dr Aykroyd's figures put forward by Dr Aykroyd and the Indian delegation at Hot Springs. There is no question therefore of our repudiating these figures or going back on our delegation. We admit that there is malnutrition, and under-nutrition, but the degree of it and what is the optimum diet for any particular area and whether the figures quoted by the delegation are sufficiently high are matters on which we do not wish to be committed to figures drawn up by Dr Aykroyd some years ago for India as a whole. I am afraid, my friend Mr Neogy cannot therefore found on this a plea that Government must undertake to implement all the important recommendations of the Organisation, subject to the approval of the Legislature, as he has suggested in his amendment now before the House. No Government, I would submit, can put itself in the position that it undertakes in advance to accept all the administrative recommendations of an outside body, a body on which it has one vote in perhaps 45, subject only to the agreement of the Legislature. We may get recommendations addressed to a whole group of nations which may be only very partially practicable or suitable to the conditions in India. We may have—and this is an important point—to consult provinces about these recommendations. We are almost certain to have to consult them on almost every recommendation that comes, because the greater part of the matters that will be covered by this Organisation lie in the provincial field . . .

Mr. K. O. Neogy: May I interrupt the Honourable Member? The Honourable Member will find that in my amendment I have taken care to confine the action to the Central Government that is to say, let the Central Government set an example in the areas which are under the Central Government's own authority I did not mention the Provincial Governments at all

Mr. J. D. Tyson: No, we cannot say in advance that we are going to accept all recommendations merely after consulting the Central Legislature my point is that we have to consult the Provincial Governments as well

Mr. K. O. Neogy: Why?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I had thought that my friend's amendment meant something very different, and I may say that it will be our policy to keep the Legislature informed of developments in connection with this Organisation and to try to carry the Legislature along with us When there are recommendations involving legislation, we shall certainly have to carry the Legislature with us, and when we come to the Legislature for funds we shall certainly have to carry them with us

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) The Honourable Member's time is up

Mr. J. D. Tyson: May I just finish? I could not possibly accept my friend's amendment now that he has explained it as he has done, and I am glad to find that in this Professor Ranga agrees with me I had some more points to reply to but if my time is up I must sit down I should only like to say that I am prepared from this side of the House to accept Prof Ranga's amendment; but I cannot possibly accept Mr Neogy's amendment in the light of the explanation that he has vouchsafed to the House

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) I shall put first Mr Neogy's amendment The question is

"That at the end of the Resolution, the following be added
'on the understanding that the Central Government will implement the recommendations of the said Organization in regard to all important questions of policy, subject to the approval of the Legislature'"

The Assembly divided

AYES—46

Abdul Ghani, Maulvi Muhammad	Hosmani, Mr S K
Abdul Qayyum, Mr	Joshi, Mr N M
Abdullah, Mr H M	Kailash Bihari Lal, Mr
Azhar Ali, Mr Muhammad	Krishnamachari Mr T T
Banerjee, Dr P N	Lahiri Chaudhury, Mr D K
Chakha, Mr Kuladhar	Lakhichand, Mr Rajmal
Chattopadhyaya, Mr Amarendra Nath	Lalchand Navalrai, Mr
Chettiar, Mr T S Avinashilingam	Lingquat Ali Khan, Nawabzada Muhammad.
Chetty, Mr Sami Vencatachelam	Maitra, Pandit Lakshmi Kanta
Chunder, Mr N C	Mangal Singh, Sardar
Daga, Seth Sheodass	Misra, Pandit Shambhudayal
Dani, Mr Ananga Mohan	Nauman, Mr Muhammad
Das Mr B	Neogy, Mr K C
Das, Pandit Nilakantha	Ranga, Prof N G
Desai, Mr Bhulabhai J	Sant Singh, Sardar
Deshmukh, Mr Govind V	Sham Lal, Lala
Esak Sait, Mr H A Sathar H.	Siddique Ali Khan, Nawab
Fazl-i-Haq Piracha, Khan Bahadur Shaikh	Sinha Mr Satya Narayan
Gauri Shankar Singh, Mr	Sri Prakash, Mr
Gupta, Mr K S	Srivastava, Mr Hari Sharan Prasad
Gupta Mr R R	Subbarayan, Shrimati K Radha Bai
Hans Raj, Raisada	Yusuf Abdoola Haroon, Seth
Hegde, Sri K B Jinaraja	Zafar Ali Khan, Maulana

[21st Nov 1944]

Ahmad Nawaz Khan, Major Nawab Sir
 Ambedkar, The Honourable Dr B R
 Anthony, Mr Frank R.
 Anzul Huque, The Honourable Sir M
 Bajoria, Babu Baijnath
 Benthall, The Honourable Sir Edward
 Bhagchand Sout, Rai Bahadur Sir Seth
 Carot, Sir Olaf
 Chatterjee, Lt-Col Dr J C.
 Daga, Seth Sunder Lall
 Dalal, Dr Sir Ratanji Dinshaw
 Dalpat Singh, Sardar Bahadur Captain
 Ghasuddin, Mr M
 Griffiths, Mr P J
 Gwilt, Mr E L C
 Haider, Khan Bahadur Shamauddin
 Imam, Mr Sayid Haider
 Ismail Ali Khan, Kunwer Hajee
 Jawahar Singh, Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sir
 Joshi, Mr D S
 Kamaluddin Ahmad, Shams-ul-Ulema
 Khare, The Honourable Dr N B
 Krishnamoorthy Mr E S A

Kushal Pal Singh, Raja Bahadur
 Lawson, Mr C P
 Miller, Mr C C
 Muazzam Sahib Bahadur, Mr Muhammad
 Mudaljar, The Honourable Dewan Bahadur
 Sir A Ramaswami
 Mudie, The Honourable Sir Francis
 Piere Lall Kureel, Mr
 Raisman, The Honourable Sir Jeremy
 Richardson, Sir Henry
 Roy, The Honourable Sir Asoka
 Shahban, Khan Bahadur Mian Ghulam
 Kadir Muhammad
 Shoobert, Mr W. H
 Spence Sir George
 Srivastava, The Honourable Sir Jwala
 Prasad
 Stokes, Mr H G
 Sultan Ahmed, The Honourable Sir
 Thakur Singh, Capt
 Trivedi, Mr C M
 Tyson, Mr J D
 Vaidyanathan, Mr L S
 Zahid Husain, Mr

The motion was adopted

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) I shall now put to the House the amendment of Mr Ranga. The question is

"That at the end of the Resolution, the following be added
 'and trusts that the said Organisation will work for the promotion of the interests of
 agricultural producers no less than of consumers'"

The motion was adopted

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) The question is

"That this Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council to accept the
 constitution of the permanent Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations
 on the understanding that the Central Government will implement the recommendations
 of the said Organisation in regard to all important questions of policy, subject to the
 approval of the Legislature and trusts that the said Organisation will work for the pro-
 motion of the interests of agricultural producers no less than of consumers"

The motion was adopted

REPORT OF THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman (Finance Member) Sir, I move

"That the Report of the Public Accounts Committee on the Accounts of 1942-43 be taken
 into consideration"

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) Motion moved

"That the Report of the Public Accounts Committee on the Accounts of 1942-43 be taken
 into consideration"

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Huntur cum Nellore Non-Muhammadian Rural) Sir,
 the Honourable Member has not made any speech. It has been the custom
 in this House that the Finance Member when he makes such an important
 motion as this gives an idea to the House as to the attitude of the Govern-
 ment in regard to the Public Accounts Committee Report

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Sir, the custom has invariably been
 to the contrary as far as I am aware. The motion is simply that the report
 be taken into consideration

Mr. T. S. Avinashlingam Chettiar (Salem and Coimbatore *cum* North Arcot: Non-Muhammadian Rural): Sir, I move the amendment that stands in my name. It runs thus:

"That after the words 'taken into consideration' the following be added
'and having considered it, the House is of opinion that as grave irregularities have been observed in expenditures of large amounts in war publicity and other matters, steps should be taken immediately to put down these irregularities'."

Sir, if one goes through this report one will be struck with the colossal bad way in which our finances are managed now. Pages after pages the Committee have taken the pains to point out how large sums of money have been spent, in many cases without any account and in many cases without any vouchers. The Committee has pointed out that even when gross irregularities have been pointed out, no steps have been taken to spend them. I wish to refer to a few of the bigger irregularities.

I first refer to the expenses on war publicity. On page 5 the Committee says:

"There are two substantial items of expenditure with the state of the accounts of which we are far from satisfied."

The first relates to the grant made to provinces for expenditure on war publicity with regard to which the Audit has been having the greatest difficulty in getting its requirements satisfied. The Committee continues to say on page 39:

"The Auditor General has stated that he has been having the greatest difficulty in obtaining satisfactory accounts of this expenditure from the provinces and of exercising proper audit control. He has found difficulty in getting vouchers for expenditure and had often in relaxation of the normal audit requirements to accept certificates of disbursement instead."

This is only one example, and the amount involved in this expenditure is by no means small; it runs to crores of rupees.

Now, I would refer to the second matter to which the Report of the Public Accounts Committee refers on pages 5 and 43. On page 43 it is said:

"The Auditor General explained that the amount shown in the accounts was by no means the entire sum expended on the Denial policy and similar measures. Large amounts had been held under suspense by him pending audit prior to their acceptance as a liability of the Central Government. He was not at all satisfied at the state of the accounts of the expenditure on these measures and feared that it would be impossible ever to get the requirements of Audit satisfied. The Government of Bengal who had acted as agents of the Central Government in this matter had, at his instance, deputed a special officer to investigate these accounts and his report had disclosed a most deplorable state of affairs."

The aggregate amount there at one time was of the order of 8 crores.

Then, I would refer to the matter of stores. It is referred to on page 19 of the report. In this case also the amount concerned is in terms of crores. They say:

"Our review last year of the state of the stores organisation revealed it to be in a parlous state. We were then warned that conditions in 1943-45 were even worse than in the previous year. This fear was well-founded and the whole system of stores accounting appears to have fallen, for reasons which we cannot but appreciate and which are not peculiar to India, to a disturbingly low level of efficiency."

And they go on in the next paragraph:

"We have come across certain cases in the Audit Report the facts of which, as stated therein, lead *prima facie* to the conclusion that there has, in certain Stores Depots, been a deliberate falsification of the accounts."

They have thus shown that the accounts in the stores in many respects have been deliberately falsified. False accounts have been given and they suggested once that somebody may go into that affair and re-audit it and represent it. But they found the situation so bad that no re-writing could be done and they recommended that things may be begun afresh next year. I would like to know from the Government what steps they have taken against the officers concerned for this falsification of accounts for which the report says there is absolute proof. As far as we know, no steps have been taken at all in this matter and this House should take serious note of matters like

[Mr T S Avinashilingam Chettiar]

this Even if in cases like the falsification of accounts the Government do not take any steps to mend matters, I do not know what this Government is doing I heard in a speech by one of the Advisers in the Madras Government, while talking about the self-government and good government, that they were trying to give a good government though not self-government Is this the good government they are giving? Judged by the canons of any standard of efficiency and financial principles, this Government cannot justify such a state of affairs I would like to know what steps have been taken to mend this state of affairs And not only that, we are yet to know what steps they have taken against the officers concerned in order to bring them to book

Now, Sir, I come to the malpractices in railways. On page 20 the Committee says

"They desired to draw attention to the fact that they had had to record on a previous occasion also (in the Report on the Accounts for 1940-41) their opinion 'that the punishments inflicted in a number of cases seem to have been lenient in view of the grave nature of the charges proved against the officers concerned in departmental enquiries'."

The Railway Member in answer to questions in this House has said many times that if bribery has to be checked, it should be checked on both sides, on the side of the givers and takers We agree But what steps has he taken to see that people do not succumb to temptations too easily, even to see that temptations are not invited by people Here is the report of the Public Accounts Committee which says that financial irregularities and corruption have been shown to them, but no steps have been taken If steps were at all taken, they proved too lenient They go on to say that it is difficult enough even to check malpractices We know that there are malpractices in several Departments and it is difficult to catch the receiver as well as the giver But even if such malpractices are brought to the notice of the officers concerned, no proper action is taken against them That is the state of affairs How does this Government propose to remedy this state of affairs? They say, that when the proof has been established, there is no reason why punishments fitting the crime should not be awarded I would point out to this House that in many cases, especially after going through this report, where malpractices have been rampant, where there have been falsification of accounts, where corruption was practised, no proper steps were taken

[I now come to another interesting instance A Garrison Engineer placed some orders for local purchase of iron bedsteads for cots You find this in page 51 of the Public Accounts Committee report Instead of placing an order through the Supply Department or the Ordnance officer of the Station as required under Government instructions, the bedsteads were supplied at Rs 41 which the Supply Department would have supplied at Rs 19-4-0 We know, Sir, the Supply Department themselves usually pay at a high rate, much above the ordinary market rate It is most surprising to see that the Garrison Engineer outbids even the Supply Department is paying high price. I do not know whether this happens in many other Departments also

An Honourable Member: Is it black market or white market?

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: They are all white What I see is that though the Supply Department, in spite of its usual extravagant habit, could have supplied the same bedstead at Rs 19-4-0 each, this gentleman gets it at Rs 41 each What are we to say about this transaction? The loss to the Government on this transaction amounted to nearly a lakh of rupees To whose pocket has this lakh gone? It is certainly a loss to the finances of the country Have the Government enquired into the facts to find whether it was a *bona fide* purchase. Did the Government enquire whether the Garrison Engineer invited tenders, or whether he went to a few shops or whether he knew the ruling market price of the articles he was purchasing How can he pay Rs. 41 for an article which even the Supply Department could get for Rs. 19-4-0 On the face of it there is something wrong

about it. Any man with common sense will say, here is something fishy, money has been misused, it has gone into the pocket of some one. What steps have been taken?

Mr. N. M. Joshi (Nominated Non-Official) What does the Public Accounts Committee say?

Mr. T. S. Avinashlingam Chettiar: I read from the report of the Committee

"It was explained that the Garrison Engineer's orders were to purchase the bedsteads by a certain date without regard to the procedure followed in purchasing them and that the bedsteads actually purchased were of higher specification than those supplied by the Supply Department."

It was however not known why a higher specification was necessary in this particular case. Evidently the latitude that was allowed to the Garrison Engineer was made good use of by him. There are many such instances, and this is only a matter of small amount.

I now come to the Labour Department presided over by my Honourable friend Dr. Ambedkar. My Honourable friend is always very sensitive. It is not rarely that he has the pleasure of losing his temper in this House even when legitimate questions are put to him. The matter I am going to refer to relates to the same topic on which a question was put recently. Para 90 of the Report says

"It was explained that the sub-head C 6(3) (3)—Labour propaganda represented an amount of Rs 13,000 a month paid on behalf of the Labour Department to Mr. M. N. Roy with the object of keeping up the morale of labour."

I thought it was Rs 13,000 per year. Now, I see I was mistaken. There is a limit for everything, but here every decent limit is exceeded. I do not know how far Mr. Roy succeeded in his object of keeping up the morale of labour.

An Honourable Member: Demoralise Labour.

Mr. T. S. Avinashlingam Chettiar: Yes, this was to demoralise labour. In their hurry to pay, the Department did not even care to conform to the ordinary accounting rules. The Labour Department wanted to reward their favourites, and in these days of inflation, perhaps the cost of reward also had to be increased. The Report further says

"The Committee were informed that this was another head with regard to the accounts of which the audit had been having considerable difficulty. An Accountant from the office of the Accountant General Central Revenues had now been sent to Mr. Roy in order to help him to prepare the accounts. The Committee trusted that it would be possible to straighten this matter at an early date."

I trust everything is to be cooked up, and the matter put straight.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari (Tanjore cum Trichinopoly Non-Muhammadan Rural) It is a dog's tail, it will never be straightened.

Mr. T. S. Avinashlingam Chettiar: While on this point, I would like to refer the House to the denial made by the President of the Indian Trade Union Congress that no money was ever received. Evidently the quarrel is about the person who should receive the money.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Did the Honourable Member say Trade Union Congress?

Mr. T. S. Avinashlingam Chettiar: I am sorry. Sir, I am wrong. It was the Indian Labour Federation. I am sorry if I have offended Mr. Joshi. I made a mistake. This Labour Federation was paid Rs 13,000 per month and for one year it works out to Rs 1,56,000. They have taken care to see that the amount was paid to the organisation but they have not taken care to see that it has been spent for the purpose for which it was meant, namely keeping up the morale of labour. What steps did the Government take to see that the money was properly spent? Did they apply the principles laid down by the Auditor General in the matter of spending of money. No accounts are available. What is worse is that money has not been spent properly. There are some of the instances where money was misused. There

[Mr T S Avinashalingam Chettiar]

must be hundreds of other instances in this labyrinth of Government of India. Budget spending 300 crores of rupees where you can see such colossal waste of public money. The Government must make themselves responsible to set things right.

Now, Sir, I come to another department, the department of my Honourable friend Dr Khare. That is given on pages 5 and 52 and refers to the money spent on the evacuees. Sir, we have the food problem in this country and we are not able to feed the hungry children of this country, but this Government of India welcome with open arms everybody who comes from outside the country.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) It is now 5 o'clock. The Assembly is adjourned *sine die*.

The Assembly then adjourned *sine die*.

THE
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES

Official Report

Volume IV, 1944

(1st to 13th November 1944)

TWENTY-FIRST SESSION
OF THE
FIFTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,
1944



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

President :

THE HONOURABLE SHI ABDUR RAHIM, K.C.S.I.

Deputy President :

MR. AKHIL CHANDRA DATTA, M.L.A.

Panel of Chairmen :

MR. ABDUL GAIYUM, M.L.A.

Nawabzada MUHAMMAD LIAQUAT ALI KHAN, M.L.A.

MR. K. C. NEOGY, M.L.A.

SIR HENRY RICHARDSON, M.L.A.

Secretary :

Mian MUHAMMAD RAZI, Barrister-at-Law.

Assistants of the Secretary :

MR. M. N. KATL, Barrister-at-Law.

Khan Bahadur S. G. HASNAIN.

Marshal :

Captain Haji Sardar NUR AHMAD KHAN, M.C., I.O.M., I.A.

Committee on Petitions :

MR. AKHIL CHANDRA DATTA, M.L.A. (*Chairman*).

Nawabzada MUHAMMAD LIAQUAT ALI KHAN, M.L.A.

MR. GOVIND V. DESHMUKH, M.L.A.

MR. N. M. JOSHI, M.L.A.

Sardar SANT SINGH, M.L.A.

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THE
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Official Report

Volume V, 1944

(14th to 21st November 1944)

TWENTY-FIRST SESSION
OF THE
FIFTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,
1944



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